

BEFORE THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2011 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Saturday,
August 13, 2011
10:00 a.m.

Pursuant to Notice, a public hearing was heard before the 2011 Prince George's County Redistricting Commission in the **Council Hearing Room, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, County Administration Building, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, 20772**. The following is a transcript of this hearing only with the following members present:

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

SHARON TAYLOR, CHAIR

DAVID C. HARRINGTON

TAMARA DAVIS BROWN

STAFF PRESENT:

RAJ KUMAR, DEPUTY COUNSEL

KATHLEEN H. CANNING, LEGISLATIVE OFFICER

KAREN T. ZAVAKOS, LEGISLATIVE OFFICER

DALE HUTCHISON

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

1
2 CHAIR TAYLOR: Good morning. Good morning, ladies and
3 gentlemen. If you'll be so kind as to join us, we'll get
4 started. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the
5 Saturday, August 13th, public hearing for the 2011 Prince
6 George's Redistricting Commission. My name is Sharon Taylor.
7 I am the Chair of the Commission. I'm working with
8 Commissioner Tamara Davis Brown and Commissioner David
9 Harrington.

10 I want to welcome you here this morning and start off
11 with a little bit of housekeeping. This, for us, is the
12 fifth - this is the fifth public hearing that we've had in
13 the pursuit of this important work. And all of you represent
14 information that came to this Commission that helped us
15 actually begin the process.

16 We decided among ourselves that, to begin and bring you
17 the gospel according to the Commission, was not the best way
18 to go. And we decided that your input, along with our
19 thinking and the good thinking of a very smart consultant
20 that we had was the best way for us to even begin to draw the
21 map. And so what we want to present to you today is the
22 product of all of our thinking. So, thank you for your
23 participation along the process, and thank you for your
24 participation again today.

1 In addition to that, this will be the last time that we
2 get to lead this process. The next time there is a public
3 hearing on the proposed map for the 2011 Redistricting you'll
4 be testifying before the County Council. What happens now
5 is, with your additional input, we are bound to go back the
6 next couple of weeks and to consider the additional thoughts
7 and recommendations you have for us today and to come up
8 again with another map.

9 What you bring to us today may give us information that
10 would require us to make some changes. That map, including a
11 report outlining all of our work and how we proceeded and how
12 we got to where the map that we're giving them, is going to
13 be delivered to the County Council on September 1st. That
14 will have been, beyond agreeing to allow us to be
15 Commissioners, the only time they will have been involved in
16 this process.

17 This has been between us and you and the good people in
18 County administration who have assisted us. And so that will
19 be the first time they will see it. We'll deliver it to them
20 on September 1st. I think within a week and a half or
21 something after that, we'll present our plan to them before
22 the Chamber. And then less than, not - less than 15 but not
23 more than 30 days from the day we give them the plan, they
24 will schedule a public hearing such as ours to hear again
25 your thoughts. If the Council does not make any changes to

1 the plan, it will become effective on the last day of
2 November of 2011.

3 So, for myself, let me say that I have so appreciated
4 the work done by the County Council staff, with whom we could
5 not have done this work. We've had legal advice. We've had
6 members from Park and Planning, who helped us crunch the
7 numbers. And every week, as we met, we came to the meeting
8 with an agenda and where we were going, all of which had to
9 be put together before we got there. So, first and foremost,
10 let me say thank you to the County Council support staff
11 that's been so helpful to us.

12 And then finally let me say, as someone who's only been
13 in Prince George's County for seven years, I think I, what I
14 thought I could bring to the process was a way of helping
15 communicate the importance of the process in making sure
16 there was more openness and transparency associated with that
17 information. And I think I'd like to think that I was
18 helpful.

19 But, had it not been for two Commissioners, who have
20 been in Prince George's County much longer than I who know
21 the terrain and the communities much more than I and who were
22 so helpful and supportive in helping me through that part of
23 it, I think we would not be here today with a product that I
24 certainly feel proud of. So I want to thank Commissioner
25 Brown, and I want to thank Commissioner Harrington for their

1 support and their actually co-chairship of this Commission,
2 and those are all my remarks.

3 So I would ask each of them to give you their welcoming
4 remarks, and we'll move on to our presentation. Thank you so
5 much. Commissioner?

6 MS. BROWN: Good morning, it's good to see everyone out
7 this morning. It lets me know that you are civic-minded and
8 that you really care about Prince George's County and the
9 future of Prince George's County because redistricting has to
10 do with the future. What we do here today and what we
11 present to the Council will affect us for the next ten years
12 at least and possibly longer. So thank you for being
13 present.

14 I'm proud to have been appointed by the Council to be a
15 member of the Commission and proud to be a part of what's
16 going to be the future of Prince George's County. What I
17 will say about the draft map that you see before you today
18 and the individual maps is that, as Chair Taylor indicated,
19 it is a product of all four of our prior public hearings
20 where we received testimony from the public from April 9th,
21 which was also a Saturday meeting, three meetings throughout
22 the County in the northern portion of the County in
23 Riverdale, in the central part of the County at the Sports
24 and Learning Complex, and then at the southern part of the
25 County in Oxon Hill library.

1 And so we did take into consideration, and I'm proud to
2 say, I would like to say, at least 90 percent, maybe even 95
3 percent of the comments that were presented at each of those
4 hearings, as well as the comments we received on the website.
5 Just prior to or for about a week before, the proposed maps
6 that you see, we accommodated I would say about 90 percent of
7 those comments. So thank you for your input and this is a
8 result of what the public has requested and asked.

9 And just as Chair Taylor indicated in her opening
10 remarks, we could not have done this process without you. So
11 we look forward to hearing your feedback based on what we've
12 done. The process is not over, as Chair Taylor explained the
13 entire process. We look forward to getting further comment
14 and hopefully completing this where all people, all citizens
15 of Prince George's County can be proud of the work that we've
16 done and satisfied with the Councilmanic boundaries that are
17 going to be drawn. Thank you.

18 MR. HARRINGTON: Good morning, everyone. And it's
19 delightful to see all of you here this morning. And I too
20 want to share with you just my just humble thanks for you
21 taking time out of your schedules to be here. A lot has been
22 said and the - oh, back it up a little bit? Raise my voice
23 more? I've never been told that. Often times I'm told
24 either to be quiet or you're talking too loud. My fifth

1 grade teacher said that you'll be a great speaker because you
2 have a booming voice.

3 But anyway, as I was saying, this is a wonder - this is
4 an incredible process unlike other kinds of logiest
5 redistricting processes. This has little to do with the big
6 D and big R politics. What this has to do is about your
7 neighborhood, about your community, about what best
8 represents the democracy in Prince George's County. And
9 that's what - and given all of the reflections that you have
10 provided up till now, that's what these maps represent.

11 I would say that there were no preconceived notions by
12 the Commission to come here and say that the map should look
13 like this or the map should look like that. Really the
14 discussions that have been very public by the Commission has
15 been about how do we incorporate and best incorporate all the
16 comments that we have received.

17 At the same time, at the same time trying to honor
18 certain standards that you'll hear about today, so I won't go
19 into those, trying to honor those standards in a way that
20 provides them sufficiency that we are taking these views very
21 seriously, because I don't think any one of us wants to go
22 away from this process. Whether you like the map or not,
23 whether you have some comments around where your community is
24 placed, no one wants to go away from this process believing
25 that you weren't listened to.

1 And even after this public hearing, this is not
2 certainly the end, because we again take your -- we have
3 until September 1, as the Chair noted, and we will take your
4 comments again and see how could we incorporate that within
5 certain standards to make sure that we are operating in a way
6 that a map that best represents a democracy in Prince
7 George's County.

8 I would close out with this. What this morning
9 represents and what this process represents is about
10 empowering community. And so less about whether or not we
11 have X number of Democrats or X number of Republicans or X
12 number of whatever. It's about whether or not then the
13 voices that are aligned in a geographic way best represent
14 then the voice that needs to be heard when making public
15 policy decisions.

16 And so I hope then that you begin to look at these maps
17 in that framework providing you then with the best access to
18 representation, not necessarily or - well, providing you with
19 the best access to representation so, at the end of the day,
20 you believe that then democracy is working in Prince George's
21 County. So thank you. I look forward to hearing your
22 comments, and I look forward then to processing them in the
23 way that provides us with then a strong and democratic
24 future.

1 CHAIR: Thank you, Commissioners. We're now going to
2 begin our presentation from Mr. Dale Hutchison from the
3 National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, who's been
4 helping us crunch the numbers. Thanks, Dale.

5 We're starting with the legal section. Is that you, Ms.
6 Zavakos?

7 MS. ZAVAKOS: Yes, it is.

8 CHAIR: Thank you very much. Karen Zavakos.

9 MS. ZAVAKOS: Good morning, everyone. I'm Karen
10 Zavakos. I am an attorney with the County Council, and I've
11 been helping to advise the Commission and help deal with the
12 issues that come up as they arise. I want to also further
13 acquaint everyone with this process. The slide we're looking
14 at now is the web page that's been established by the County
15 for this. It can be accessed on the web at
16 www.princegeorgescountymd.gov.

17 And the purpose of the website is to enhance
18 understanding of the process and gather public input as we
19 continue to progress through the process. On that website,
20 and it's a bit small on the screen admittedly, you'll find
21 the slides that are used for each public hearing, the slides
22 that were used for each public meeting, the minutes and
23 agendas for each of the meetings that we've held so far, the
24 slides we'll be seeing today and, importantly, the maps that

1 will be under consideration today, and a citizen's guide
2 explaining important redistricting issues.

3 Another important facet of the website is the public
4 comment box, where, in the event that there are comments that
5 are to be considered, you may and you're encouraged to
6 provide your feedback for consideration by the Commission.
7 To discuss the legal and policy considerations guiding the
8 work of the Commission, I'm going to turn it over to my
9 colleague, Kathy Canning.

10 MS. CANNING: This next segment is on what the law
11 requires and other policy considerations. There are three
12 charter requirements, and they are that the District be
13 compact, contiguous and equal in population. Compact is, is
14 a district is generally considered compact if it has a fairly
15 regular shape with constituents all living relatively near to
16 each other.

17 Contiguous, a contiguous district is a district where
18 all parts of the district are connected to each other. Equal
19 in population, also known as one person, one vote, when
20 districts are drawn, each district's population must be
21 roughly equal. The maximum deviation is five percent of the
22 average district population.

23 Redistricting, the other policy considerations, citizen
24 input for proposed districts. The Commission has conducted a
25 number of public meetings and public hearings, which were

1 discussed by the Commissioners, and have solicited citizen
2 input before introducing the proposed map, the map which you
3 see in the back of the room and the district maps
4 accompanying the major map.

5 Other policy considerations, the 2011 Redistricting
6 Commission voted on the following policy considerations.
7 There were three major considerations. These were using
8 existing Council Districts as the starting point, minimizing
9 splits to Census Designated Places wherever possible, and
10 this was a key redistricting principle, and no consideration
11 of incumbency.

12 MS. ZAVAKOS: And a final point of clarification that
13 came up during the course of discussions is when do these
14 boundary changes take effect. And you heard Chair Taylor
15 advise that the plan becomes effective on the last day of
16 November. However, the County Charter provides that no
17 Council Member shall forfeit their office by reason of a
18 change in boundary lines during their term.

19 So, that said, it means, although the Redistricting Plan
20 becomes law as an act of the County Council at the end of
21 this year, the actual changes to the Councilmanic boundaries
22 will take effect with the 2014 cycle for, of elections for
23 Council Members.

24 MR. HUTCHISON: The next part of the presentation - and
25 my name is Dale Hutchison. I'm with the Park and Planning

1 Commission here with the Prince George's Planning Department.
2 There was a mention in the key policy considerations was the
3 minimizing of the splits of Census Designated Places. So,
4 the first thing I wanted to do is a little description of
5 what the Census geography is about.

6 There are various categories of Census geography, and
7 most of you are probably familiar with many of them. And
8 they start as a small geography, which the Census Bureau
9 calls the blocks. And then block groups, which obviously are
10 groups of blocks. The block groups are grouped together into
11 Census tracts, and the Census tracts are grouped into other
12 geographies. And the two larger geographies within the, at
13 the County level are Census Designated Places. These are
14 unincorporated communities.

15 And then the incorporated places, basically the
16 municipalities of which Prince George's County has some 27
17 municipalities, more than any other County in the State. And
18 those municipal boundaries and their annexations over time
19 have caused some kind of - you'll see some things, some of
20 the boundaries of the Census Designated Places look a little
21 odd. Many of those are due to municipal annexations where a
22 municipality will expand its boundaries to pull in a certain
23 subdivision or smaller areas of the County.

24 And they automatically modify the boundaries of the
25 Census Designated Places, so that creates some of the

1 somewhat unusual boundaries that you'll find at the -- when
2 you get down to the very small details of some of the
3 boundaries. We can explain some of those if there are
4 questions afterwards.

5 Obviously, we're talking about population change from
6 the 2000 Census to 2010. This map, the darker locations, are
7 identified, are identifying those locations in the County by
8 Census tract where the highest percentages of population
9 increases occurred. And obviously you can see that the
10 largest increases were in the central portion of the County
11 along Central Avenue and Route 50 in general.

12 There were some areas in the southern area of the County
13 where there were percentage-wise increases in population in
14 the Brandywine community and then a few in the northern area
15 and the South Laurel and Laurel areas. But these are the,
16 these increases in population at these particular locations
17 cause, create the need for boundary changes. And every time
18 you make one boundary change in one location, it has domino
19 effects down the line into other districts.

20 Using the Census Designated Places, the Commission
21 attempted to redraw the boundaries in ways that maintained
22 the three principles that the legal counsel mentioned to you,
23 the compactness and the contiguousness and, particularly, the
24 population, the one-person-one-vote principle within Charter.

1 So, based on those principles and looking at the
2 population changes and modifying boundaries to meet those
3 three principles set forth in Charter, the Commission went
4 through a number of different iterations over the last three
5 or four months, modifying boundaries as additional testimony
6 was received at the four public hearings that were mentioned,
7 modifying boundaries to reflect recommendations or desires
8 that were submitted by municipal governments, by the e-mails
9 and letters received from the citizens, and, based on all of
10 that input, came up with recommended boundaries.

11 The current boundaries of the nine Council Districts are
12 as shown on the map that you see now on the screen. And
13 based on all of those, that input, the recommendations for
14 the current recommended proposed boundaries, which are on the
15 boards in the back of the room and, again I'll reiterate, are
16 available to you on the Redistricting Commission's website,
17 so you can access them on the internet. They are printable
18 from that site, and that is the location where you can also
19 provide your input through an e-mail system set into the
20 website.

21 The last slide I think we wanted to show you was just an
22 identification of how this Commission attempted to meet their
23 guiding principle, if you will, of not splitting Census
24 Designated Places. The chart identifies the number of Census
25 splits that existed in the 2001 Redistricting. There are 82

1 Census Designated Places in the County. And in 2001, 40 of
2 those Census Designated Places were split into some 40
3 different districts or 40 different split areas.

4 In this, in the current boundary, the 2011 Redistricting
5 Plan and the 82 CDPs, only one of them is split. And that
6 particular Census Designated Place is Adelphi, and those
7 boundaries are, in effect, unchanged from the 2001
8 Redistricting Plan. So, in effect, the Commission was able
9 to create a Redistricting Plan that we believe meets the
10 legal principles without splitting any Census Designated
11 Place that was not previously split and still met the
12 population standards set forth by law.

13 And that would conclude my comments, Madam Chair.

14 CHAIR: Thank you so much, Ms. Zavakos, Ms. Canning and
15 Mr. Hutchison. We asked, I asked Mr. Hutchison to end with
16 this slide because, quite frankly, this is really the
17 starting point from what you and I have, and us, have
18 designed, including comments on the website and the public
19 meetings, from public officials on the website.

20 But, for the first time in our process, I'd like to ask
21 all public officials to stand and be recognized. I think
22 we've gotten some comments, but I don't think we've seen
23 anybody in our meetings. Are there any public officials
24 here? I know my day-to-day boss, Sheriff High, is here.

1 Thank you so much for coming. We appreciate seeing you.

2 Thank you.

3 We're going to move right into testimony.

4 CLERK: If you could please state your Council District,
5 your current Council District, when you come up to speak, and
6 our first speaker is Council Member Chris Nagle.

7 CHAIR: Excuse me, Madam Clerk. Is there a time? Is
8 there a time?

9 CLERK: Yes, ma'am. There's three minutes, and a yellow
10 light will come on. You'll see on the podium when it's time
11 to sum up.

12 CHAIR: Thank you.

13 MS. NAGLE: Thank you. Good morning, my name is
14 Christine Nagle. I appreciate the opportunity to submit
15 testimony this morning. I reside at 9506 52nd Avenue in
16 College Park, Maryland. I'm here to ask this morning that
17 North College Park be kept in District 1. As one of the
18 College Park Council Members who represents North College
19 Park, I know that our community has been well served by
20 representation from District 1.

21 I was surprised to hear on July 29th that the
22 Redistricting Committee had decided to put North College Park
23 into District 3 because that, while some residents were
24 asking to have it kept in District 1, other residents were
25 asking for it to be in District 3. Since this did not meet

1 up with what I have been hearing on my own, I requested
2 copies of the testimony that had been submitted to date. And
3 on August, as of August 2nd, there had been 15 comments
4 submitted.

5 Of those, six comments were dealing with District Route
6 - excuse me, with North College Park. Five of the commenters
7 are residents of North College Park, and all five residents
8 of North College Park stated totally that they'd like to stay
9 in North College Park and to District 1. There of one of
10 those comments came from an individual named David Doddio
11 (phonetic), who has been an adamant commenter who has stated
12 that he did not like the way North College Park is being
13 developed.

14 He was discontent with the previous Council Member on
15 County Council, Mr. Tom Dernoga. And he, Mr. Doddio is not a
16 resident of North College Park. To my understanding, he is
17 not a resident of Prince George's County. He resides in
18 Washington, D.C. For those reasons, I would ask that his
19 comments be stricken from the record or, in the alternative,
20 at least be given less comment or less consideration than the
21 comments of the residents who will be impacted by the
22 redistricting.

23 The remaining nine comments came from residents in the
24 south section of the city, and those comments did ask that -
25 they were dealing with staying. They also wanted their part

1 of the city to remain the way it is currently districted.
2 They were worried about being split from District 3 into
3 District 2. So I can understand why the Commission might
4 have felt some confusion in the comments in seeing that where
5 there was a division between residents asking for uniformity
6 and to be in District 3.

7 But the difference was that residents in the southern,
8 excuse me, the southern part of the city were asking to stay
9 in District 3 instead of going in District 2. The idea being
10 is that everybody in College Park seem to like the way things
11 are right now, and they're asking to stay as they are. For
12 those reasons, the folks in North College Park that I
13 represent are asking that we would stay in District 1.

14 Our community is pleased with the representation that
15 we've received since the last redistricting time from our
16 current representative and the last representative we had
17 prior to that. The new designation of Council Census
18 District does not necessitate a change, and we ask that we
19 would be able to stay. While we appreciate the idea that the
20 Commission has come up with in trying to keep Census data
21 tracts together, we would prefer to stay with our current
22 district and ask that you would honor those wishes. Thank
23 you very much.

24 CHAIR: Ms. Brown.

1 MS. BROWN: Could you, Councilwoman. So you are aware
2 that currently College Park is split between three
3 Councilmanic Districts?

4 MS. NAGLE: College Park is currently split between two,
5 3 and 1.

6 MS. BROWN: Between 3 and 1, okay. And rather than
7 keeping the, all of College Park in one Councilmanic
8 District, you prefer to stay in the Council Districts that
9 you are?

10 MS. NAGLE: That's correct.

11 MS. BROWN: Okay. And this is just a general comment.
12 I just wanted to get those questions. You may be seated.
13 But this is just a general comment. As Mr. Hutchison
14 mentioned in his presentation, our goal was to keep Census
15 Designated Place, which is a key principle that the U.S.
16 Supreme Court considers in redistricting cases. And so we
17 wanted to make sure that we were legally correct in how we
18 went about the redistricting process. That's the first
19 comment.

20 The second comment is, is that, as I mentioned in my
21 opening remarks, we made an attempt with the first four
22 hearings to make sure that we tried to accommodate all nine,
23 over 90 percent of the comments that were received, both
24 during the hearings as well as the, those comments that were

1 posted online. And so we feel fairly confident that we have
2 met that requirement.

3 However, because of the significant increase by 62,000
4 of residents that completed the Census, there will have to be
5 some changes. And those changes, you know, again, we're
6 trying to accommodate everyone. But again, in order to meet
7 the Charter of having equal population as well as being
8 legally correct before any court, whether it's in Maryland or
9 the U.S. Supreme Court, there will have to be some boundary
10 changes.

11 And so I want to make sure that everyone recognizes that
12 and that this process, as Commissioner Harrington mentioned,
13 is not about a political party. And it's also not about a
14 Councilperson, because we elect, we did a great thing in this
15 County. And, you know, some may agree. Some may disagree,
16 but we have term limits. So, whether you are satisfied with
17 your Councilperson right now, guess what, in four or eight
18 years, you're going to have a different Councilperson.

19 And so that's just the process and the nature of the
20 process in Prince George's County. And so we want to make
21 sure that we - that you understand that there are legal
22 obligations. The Charter, as Ms. Zavakos pointed out, says
23 that we have to be equal in population, equal. They must be
24 contiguous and must be compact. And so, if we're going to
25 meet those with the increases that we have seen, particularly

1 in the northern and central part of the County, there will
2 have to be some changes.

3 And so, again, we're here to hear from you, but we want
4 to let you know that we did the best possible with the
5 comments that we had with the testimony that we received to
6 make sure that we accommodate over 90 percent. We're here
7 today to hear from you and get the remainder. This is not
8 the last map. It will be considered with the comments that
9 we receive today. But we want to make sure that you fully
10 understand all of what is required legally as well. Thank
11 you.

12 CHAIR: Thank you. Thank you, Commissioner. Ms. Nagle,
13 on the Mr. Doddio, we'll look into those comments. But
14 closely tied to what the Commissioner said, our information
15 indicates that College Park is split between District 1, 2
16 and 3. And we'll check that again.

17 But I will tell you that, in the consideration of any of
18 the comments, one of the reasons we wanted to mention today
19 that these particular districts don't actually come into
20 effect until 2014 is so that people could understand that
21 representation by a specific District person will not be
22 affected. And whatever district you live in will not be
23 affected. But again, based on the growth of the County, we
24 don't have the option of taking no action.

1 And so, as we turn this Plan over to the County Council,
2 what we wanted to do is to give them, present to them the
3 very best canvas. And I think our over-arching principle was
4 to be guided by the law, which was to unify communities to
5 the greatest extent possible.

6 CLERK: Next speaker, Council Member Todd Turner.

7 MR. TURNER: Good morning, Madam Chair, Commissioners
8 Harrington and Davis Brown. Actually, I'm joined by my
9 Council colleague from the City of Bowie, Dr. Isaac Truth,
10 who I think is signed up next. So we'll try to not use a
11 full six minutes and do this together. First of all -

12 MR. HARRINGTON: Sir, can I interrupt you for a second?

13 MR. TURNER: Yes.

14 MR. HARRINGTON: I hope my eyesight doesn't fail me but
15 is that a Kappa sign that I see on that shirt?

16 MR. TROUTH: Yes, it is, Commissioner. I'm supposed to
17 be at a Kappa retreat.

18 MR. HARRINGTON: Can we strike his comments from the
19 record?

20 MR. TROUTH: But I'm also a member of the Order of the
21 Theta from New York City, which you're familiar with.

22 MR. HARRINGTON: Well then please then he can have 50
23 percent of his time.

24 MR. TURNER: Thank you, Commissioner Harrington. First,
25 on behalf of the Mayor and my other colleagues who are not

1 here with us, we want to thank you for your efforts in
2 particular and particularly your focus on keeping communities
3 together. As you know, the City of Bowie submitted comments
4 to you to keep the City of Bowie together in one District.
5 Unlike some of our other municipal colleagues, we wanted to
6 be together particularly because we had a history in the past
7 redistricting that seven of our communities were taken out
8 and put into another district, and that created issues with
9 representations.

10 So, with that being said, we just had a couple of
11 comments with respect to the proposed District 4 map, and
12 that's where the City of Bowie is currently located. And
13 Council Member Trouth will follow up with a comment in
14 particular. Two comments generally, one, in 2006 the City of
15 Bowie, and it was touched on earlier, submitted or went
16 through a process of talking about annexation and where we
17 would - a what-if scenario if the City of Bowie were to grow.

18 And looking at the map, there were some areas that the
19 City could potentially grow. And, as you know, annexation is
20 a two-part process. It's not us going out and taking
21 property. The property has to be willing to come in. And
22 one of those natural boundaries is on the southern side of
23 the proposed map, and that would include the potential
24 development from Carrington on the south side of 214 on 301.
25 And also currently in the current District 4 map, the current

1 district goes down as far as Leland Road, including Trade
2 Zone, which is a commercial property, and also Queen Anne,
3 which also has some natural connections and previous history
4 working with the City of Bowie.

5 The other thing in this annexation process that we did
6 we thought a natural potential boundary on the western side
7 for opportunity would be 193 Enterprise Road, Glen Dale. And
8 I know in the proposed map it goes farther west than that in
9 order to incorporate, I assume, additional population to meet
10 the equal population standard. But that might be more of a
11 natural boundary for the Commission to consider for this
12 District if we're going to - if the comments are that we can
13 go a little bit further south. And Council Member Truth has
14 some comments about the northern part also. Thank you.

15 MR. TROUTH: Good morning, Commissioners.

16 CHAIR: Good morning.

17 MR. TROUTH: My name is Councilman Dr. Isaac C. Truth
18 from the City of Bowie, District 4. My comments relate to
19 the northern part of the redistricting. We're looking at the
20 area around 197 where the MARC station is. Now, although
21 Bowie State University - and I am a graduate of Bowie State
22 University, Class of 1982.

23 Although Bowie State University is not within the
24 incorporated boundaries of the City of Bowie, it has always
25 been thought to be a part of the City of Bowie. And there

1 have been discussions with the City of Bowie and the
2 University about annexation. So, we're looking - asking you
3 to reconsider cutting out Bowie State University because,
4 according to the proposed Redistricting Map, it appears that
5 Bowie State University would be in District 1 as opposed to
6 being District 4.

7 Also, from a transportation point of view, the MARC
8 station would then be in District 1 as well as the Metro
9 would also be in District 1, leaving a split with regard to
10 transportation for District 4. So, I urge you, if you will,
11 to please take a look at the Bowie State University area. I
12 would really suggest if it's possible - I'm not trying to
13 overstep my boundaries by any stretch of the imagination,
14 Commissioners.

15 But look at the boundaries to be that Patuxent Wildlife
16 Resort, which is on 197. And also, from a population
17 standpoint, when we look at the Census Data places, looking
18 at Bowie State University and its incorporation into District
19 4, as opposed to District 1, I do not believe it will have
20 any impact with regard to that criteria that you're looking
21 at. Those are my comments, and thank you very much for
22 hearing me.

23 CHAIR: Thank you both.

24 MR. TROUTH: Thank you.

25 MR. HARRINGTON: Thank you.

1 CLERK: Council Member James Wildoner.

2 MR. WILDONER: Wildoner.

3 CLERK: Okay, sorry, sir.

4 MR. WILDONER: Thank you, Madam Chair and Commissioners.

5 The City of New Carrollton sent in a letter regarding the
6 redistricting. The New Carrollton Metro is in District 5,
7 and most of our population is not in District 5. So, in
8 order to be more representative and democratic about it, we
9 propose that District 3 would have the boundaries - we're not
10 picking up any people, but we'd pick up the New Carrollton
11 Metro Station area.

12 Now, there is also contiguous population there that is
13 very small and probably would not affect your five percent
14 that you can go over or under when you redistrict because
15 there's West Lanham Hills, and there's a small section up
16 there with a small civic association that would actually
17 maybe add I don't know if it's 300 or 400 homes to New
18 Carrollton's base. And so the percentage would not be that
19 large.

20 And we would like to see I guess most of the voting
21 population - in order to give representation from our County
22 Council in order to have the most impact, we would have, want
23 our County Council person who is voted in to represent, you
24 know, District 3, which is where most of our population comes
25 from. And we would not have much of a voice in the New

1 Carrollton Metro, which has the City of New Carrollton's name
2 on it, and has been the city called New Carrollton forever.

3 And we are proposing that those boundaries be changed at
4 least for the, you know, non-residential part, at least
5 include the New Carrollton Metro area. We also are working
6 on Memorandums of Understanding with the Metro now so we
7 provide them also with police support.

8 So, we're putting a lot of resources in that area,
9 money, and things to help the crime situation because that is
10 ranked number one in crime on the Metro. So, in order, when
11 you're addressing the boundaries - I know you're doing a
12 great job. It's hard to take 96,000 people and divide them
13 up equally. But you've done a great job doing that.

14 And, in order to be more contiguous in our sense, we
15 would hope that the New Carrollton boundaries would be, end
16 up in District 3 moving that population. I don't know
17 whether you can do that or not. That's up to the Commission.
18 You can look at the figures of West Lanham Hills, and there's
19 another area. There's 410 that goes up there, and that's
20 where the Purple Line is also.

21 So there's two major projects going on that are called
22 New Carrollton as the destination. And we would like most of
23 our voting population to be considered in that destination.
24 When you consider the Purple Line, you consider New
25 Carrollton Metro. Please consider the fact that we would

1 like to have most of our population because they're concerned
2 about the growth in that area.

3 Thank you very much, and I appreciate your time and
4 effort, especially on a Saturday. I have meetings every week
5 of the night. And also during the day, it's very hard
6 because I know the County Council always has meetings from
7 10:00 to 3:00 during the daytime and you have to work. So
8 thank you very much.

9 CHAIR: Thank you for your time. I just wanted to
10 comment that we did receive the City of New Carrollton's
11 comments, and we looked at the Metro situation. And we will
12 take a second look at it, but once we did make the move to
13 include the Metro station, it skewed the numbers more than
14 the five percent deviation that's, that is allowable by the
15 Supreme Court.

16 MR. WILDONER: [Off microphone] I guess we're not
17 looking at population (inaudible) residential areas.

18 CHAIR: Well, yeah -

19 MR. WILDONER: There's nobody that lives over there in
20 the New Carrollton Metro. There's only office buildings and
21 -

22 CHAIR: Right, we're aware of that, but we did a number
23 of iterations on that and it did skew the population by more
24 than five percent. It also had a domino effect. Again, once

1 you tweak one district, it also has a domino effect on the
2 neighboring contiguous -

3 MR. WILDONER: You do know we're in District 5 and 3?

4 CHAIR: Correct, correct. Thank you.

5 MR. HARRINGTON: Madam Chair.

6 CHAIR: Yes.

7 MR. HARRINGTON: Just a question for the last speaker.

8 Is the New Carrollton Metro within the municipal boundaries
9 of New Carrollton?

10 MR. WILDONER: No, it's not (inaudible).

11 MR. HARRINGTON: Do you provide any - because you talked
12 about the crime there, does New Carrollton have some
13 Memorandum of Understanding, let's say, with Metro to provide
14 police there?

15 MR. WILDONER: We're working on that.

16 MR. HARRINGTON: You're working on that?

17 MR. WILDONER: We've (inaudible) dealing with Metro --

18 MR. HARRINGTON: Okay.

19 MR. WILDONER: -- if it has problems. So, it's an
20 ongoing thing (inaudible) in dealing with (inaudible) -

21 MR. HARRINGTON: So you're having those discussions?

22 MR. WILDONER: We're having those discussions but we're
23 also doing the paperwork.

24 MR. HARRINGTON: Thank you.

25 CHAIR: Thank you. Next.

1 CLERK: Ms. Tanya Hill, and please state your current
2 district.

3 MS. HILL: Good morning to the Commission.

4 CHAIR: Good morning.

5 MS. HILL: I live in Councilmanic District 9. I just
6 want to really come to thank you today. My last testimony
7 was a plea for you to unify Camp Springs. And looking at the
8 proposed map, you have done that. We were previously in
9 three councilmanic districts, three legislative districts.
10 And now, as far as councilmanic, it looks like we're going to
11 be in one.

12 The only thing that I would ask is that could we get a
13 GIS map maybe on the website so that we can look further down
14 to the street level. I don't know that we can do that right
15 now, but I am requesting that we could have that. But I do -
16 I'm not coming to plead today. I'm just coming to say thank
17 you for putting Camp Springs back together, which is a Census
18 Designated Place, and we were split up. I just want to say
19 thank you for all the work that you did to put us back
20 together.

21 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

22 CHAIR: Thank you very much. Quite frankly, I'll tell
23 you I think Camp Springs might have really pointed us in the
24 direction of this key redistricting principle, this idea that
25 there isn't probably a part of a community that doesn't want

1 to be connected to another part of the community. And so, I
2 want to thank Camp Springs for that.

3 MS. BROWN: Ms. Hill, also I'm getting indication from
4 Park and Planning Staff that the GIS URL is available on the
5 website already. You want to maybe walk through really
6 quickly how to do that so that they can see?

7 CHAIR: Is it when you go to the individual District
8 map?

9 MR. HUTCHISON: Correct.

10 CHAIR: So if you go into the website and you go to the
11 individual district map -

12 MR. HUTCHISON: If you click on this link right here
13 where it says redistricting draft maps, and you open this up
14 and you click on District 9, for example, you will get that
15 large map that's in the back with all the streets, all the
16 road techs. It's exactly that map.

17 CHAIR: Okay. In order for us to keep this our, stay on
18 our time, before - after you testify, would you just stay at
19 the mike? That way you don't have to come back up if we ask
20 questions. Thanks so much.

21 CLERK: Henry Wixon.

22 MR. WIXON: Madam Chair, Commissioners, for the record,
23 my name is Henry Wixon. I reside at 10701 Marietta Street.
24 I also own a property on Bell Station Road, and so I'm a
25 resident of - I consider myself to be a resident of Districts

1 3 and 4. I am the President of the Glen Dale Citizen's
2 Association, which is a civic association serving the
3 residents of greater Glen Dale in Prince George's County,
4 which generally encompasses the zip code of 20769 and the
5 surrounding environs.

6 I want to first thank the Commission for its important
7 work on this redistricting, which, as you all know, occurs
8 every ten years. For many years, the residents of Glen Dale
9 have been represented at District Council by Council Members
10 representing Councilmanic Districts 3 and 4. Our current
11 District 3 and 4 Council Members, Ingrid Turner and Eric
12 Olson, have proven very effective and dedicated and each is
13 held in high regard by their respective Glen Dale
14 constituents.

15 Prior to last redistricting, Glen Dale was in a single
16 district, so we have had experiences being represented by
17 single-district Councilmanic - in a Councilmanic District and
18 in two Councilmanic Districts. And we appreciate, of course,
19 that individual Council Members are subject to limited terms
20 on the Council.

21 We considered -- we, the Association, considered the
22 proposed Redistricting Plan at its regular monthly meeting.
23 I believe it was the June monthly meeting. And by a
24 unanimous vote, we resolved that, irrespective of the good
25 fortune that we enjoy being represented by these particular

1 public servants, our community has been very well served by
2 being in two Councilmanic Districts, that is Councilmanic
3 Districts 3 and 4.

4 And accordingly, we wish for the record to make clear to
5 the Commission the desire of the Glen Dale Citizen's
6 Association that the Glen Dale community continue to be
7 designated in both Councilmanic Districts 3 and 4. To that
8 end, we urge the Commission, in carrying out its charge, to
9 do so with the minimum possible change in the existing
10 Councilmanic Districts 3 and 4 with respect to the Glen Dale
11 community and its residents.

12 We appreciate the comments of our colleagues from Bowie.
13 We had not previously considered 193 as a dividing line
14 between District 3 and 4. The original dividing line or the
15 existing dividing line is Old Glen Dale Road. 193 is Glen
16 Dale, may be considered through Glen Dale to be Glen Dale
17 Road realigned. And in fact, in Glen Dale, the name of 193
18 is Glen Dale Boulevard. So we would be very willing to
19 consider that as an option as the Commission continues its
20 important work going forward.

21 I want thank, with that, the Commission for your
22 important work and for the opportunity to submit the views of
23 the Association on redistricting for the record. And I'll be
24 happy to take any questions.

1 MS. BROWN: Just to clarify, your preference is that Old
2 Glen Dale Road be the dividing line or 193?

3 MR. WIXON: Well the existing line is Old Glen Dale
4 Road.

5 MS. BROWN: Right.

6 MR. WIXON: And we had not previously considered 193 as
7 the dividing line. What I - I'm reacting real time to the
8 suggestion of Mr. Turner. That is something we would
9 certainly think would be worth considering.

10 MS. BROWN: Okay.

11 MR. WIXON: Put a different way, if you were to move it
12 from Old Glen Dale Road to Glen Dale Boulevard, we probably
13 wouldn't be up in front of you screaming too loudly about
14 that.

15 CHAIR: And would put you still again into -

16 MR. WIXON: Into two districts.

17 CHAIR: I see.

18 MR. WIXON: Which has proven very effective for us.

19 CHAIR: I see. Thank you very much.

20 MR. WIXON: Thank you so much.

21 CLERK: Teena Green.

22 MS. GREEN: Good morning, Members of the Commission and
23 staff. My name is Teena Green, and I have written testimony
24 and I like to talk. But I'm not going to talk. I'm going to
25 read it because there are some points that I really wanted to

1 get through. I reside in Camp Springs, Maryland. And I'd
2 like to thank you all for the opportunity to speak this
3 morning. I'd like to thank the Redistricting Commission for
4 your hard work, the legal staff, the analytical staff, Park
5 and Planning, everyone that's been a part of this tremendous
6 process.

7 I and my colleagues have reviewed the map up on the 55-
8 inch and, all tolled, I think it is exceptional. To give a
9 little background, I've been waiting for this moment for a
10 decade. Ten years ago, a group of Camp Springs residents and
11 I requested to be unified into a single County Council
12 District. We were split in 1991, and our 2001 Request for
13 Unification was not honored.

14 So here we are again, 20 years after being split up,
15 with little to no growth, extremely hard-hit by foreclosures,
16 lost businesses, few infrastructure repairs due to a lack of
17 unified governance at the County Council level in Camp
18 Springs and in some of the neighboring communities, like
19 Marlow Heights, Gordon's Corner and Silver Hill.

20 I am pleased to stand here today looking at a map that
21 unites Camp Springs and many other communities of interest
22 together. Thank you is not a grand enough expression to tell
23 how much we appreciate that. We look forward to having Camp
24 Springs in a single councilmanic district so that we can
25 begin to work together to help rebuild Camp Springs, which is

1 home to the County's single largest employer, Joint Base
2 Andrews.

3 I recognize that redistricting is hard because it is so
4 important. Each of you is to be commended for your efforts.
5 It is critical that we realize that there is no magic map
6 that will please everyone. And it's critical that we
7 recognize a good map, a good plan when we see it. Further,
8 it is critical that we recognize that, given the global,
9 national, state, local and personal economic issues facing
10 us, there is no time for shenanigans. There's no time for
11 gerrymandering. We just have no time to lose. We need to be
12 looking forward, well organized and well represented.

13 This map satisfies all of the redistricting criteria,
14 and it has bonuses. It's not perfect. There's a little
15 tweak in there I'd like to see, but I think that we have to
16 rise above some of the small divisions that we've been
17 hanging onto. It creates nine districts that are very
18 compact, contiguous, relatively equal in size, unifies
19 incorporated municipalities, unifies unincorporated
20 municipalities. That is a bonus.

21 I will submit my written testimony. Thank you.

22 CHAIR: Thank you so much, Ms. Green.

23 CLERK: Lee Rowe.

24 MR. ROWE: My name is Lee Rowe. I live in, currently
25 live in Councilmanic District 3 and particularly in West

1 Lanham Hills. I live because we do have concerns about being
2 moved from 3 to District 5 primarily because it would sort of
3 split our representation, particularly in the 450 Corridor
4 near the New Carrollton Metro Station. There will be
5 development occurring within New Carrollton District Station,
6 Metro Station, as well as the advent of the Purple Line.

7 By moving us to Council 5 as well as New Carrollton
8 being in Council 3, we believe would marginalize our voice
9 and representation concerning those important issues. I
10 would refer you to the letter to the editor that my good
11 neighbor Kate Tsubata wrote to the *Gazette* that talks about
12 those particular issues and how we believe that
13 marginalization or diminishment of voice would occur
14 certainly through no fault of the good people of District 5.

15 But we believe that, having a more unified
16 representation either in District 3, certainly with New
17 Carrollton, because we both share the same concerns and
18 issues about the development of the New Carrollton Metro, as
19 well as the advent of the Purple Line, and all of those
20 transportation aspects around that Route 450 Corridor,
21 particularly around New Carrollton Metro.

22 I live in West Lanham Hills. I am currently the
23 President of the West Lanham Hills Citizen's Association,
24 although the Association itself has not made any decision
25 about this. I'm just speaking on my own behalf, as well as

1 the behalf of others that share our concerns about moving us
2 from Council 3 to Council 5. We currently have about 230
3 households there. I'm not sure what exactly the population
4 is. I'm not sure how that plays into the population concerns
5 and the Census concerns.

6 But again, our main impact is, our main concern
7 particularly is about the impact it would have on
8 representation when those issues come up being split between
9 the two different councilmanic districts. We believe it
10 might be better to have it as one councilmanic district so
11 that one Councilman could represent those critical issues of
12 concern, traffic, New Carrollton development, New Carrollton
13 Metro development as well as the Purple Line.

14 I do want to thank you for this opportunity for
15 comments. I also want to thank you for the hard work you've
16 put into piecing together a very complicated jigsaw puzzle.
17 And thank you for hearing our concerns.

18 CHAIR: Commissioner Harrington.

19 MS. BROWN: Actually, Mike or Mr. Sheehan, would you pan
20 out that map a little bit? Based on the map you see before
21 you, can you identify your community under the proposed map?
22 I'm just trying to - which roads? Is it the block we just -

23 MR. ROWE: Well, let's see. I live on Decatur Road,
24 which is near Ellins Road -

25 MS. BROWN: You said Decatur?

1 MR. ROWE: -- and Harkins Road. It's that area there,
2 but I can't quite see it from here.

3 MR. HARRINGTON: Right around Hawkins Road, right?
4 Where Hawkins Road and Lanham -

5 MS. BROWN: Okay, okay. I just wanted to make sure I
6 was familiar with that area.

7 MR. ROWE: According to the maps that we see is we put
8 us in Council District 5.

9 MS. BROWN: Right.

10 MR. ROWE: And New Carrollton would still be in 3, so
11 that split would be, would again sort of diminish our voice
12 concerning New Carrollton Metro development and Route 450
13 Corridor and that area.

14 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Okay. That's all, Madam Chair.

15 CHAIR: Okay, thank you.

16 MR. HARRINGTON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Mr. Rowe, good
17 seeing you again.

18 MR. ROWE: Good to see you. Thank you.

19 MR. HARRINGTON: Hold on, I had a question.

20 MR. ROWE: Sure.

21 MR. HARRINGTON: If I understand the concern correctly,
22 one of the concerns about being shifted from District 3 to
23 District 5 is it would split New Carrollton. Are you
24 speaking of the municipality of New Carrollton or the Metro
25 Station?

1 MR. ROWE: Well, we're concerned about the Metro
2 Station, but the fact that we have certainly the same
3 concerns and issues that New Carrollton, the city itself,
4 would have about New Carrollton Metro developments and
5 development around that particular 450 Corridor. So if - we
6 think that if we're in a different district from the New
7 Carrollton district, that would, in essence, marginalize our
8 representation simply because we, Council 5 may not have such
9 a keen interest in that particular area as we would and as
10 New Carrollton would in development of the New Carrollton
11 Metro, as well as development within 450 Corridor and the
12 Purple Line.

13 MR. HARRINGTON: Well, I'm not making a case for one for
14 the other. I just want to - so right now, even though West
15 Lanham Hills is proposed to be in District 5 with - I see the
16 Mayor of Landover Hills. Landover Hills is proposed to be in
17 District 5. And the New Carrollton Metro is proposed in
18 District 5. So that does not, that does not solve your
19 concerns?

20 MR. ROWE: Yeah, it's our - more our concern is
21 particularly within the New Carrollton Metro area.

22 MR. HARRINGTON: The Metro area?

23 MR. ROWE: That 450 Corridor area, yeah, even though it
24 does expand out to other parts of 450.

25 MR. HARRINGTON: Okay.

1 MR. ROWE: But we think being in line with New
2 Carrollton, the City of New Carrollton, that would help with
3 addressing those concerns.

4 MR. HARRINGTON: Okay, thank you.

5 MR. ROWE: Thanks.

6 CLERK: Yvette Jardine, Julia Williams.

7 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning.

8 CHAIR: Good morning.

9 MS. BROWN: Morning.

10 MS. WILLIAMS: My name is Julia Williams, and I
11 currently live in District 6. I am the co-chair of the Fanny
12 Lou Hamer-Political Action Committee, and I'm here to submit
13 the following testimony.

14 First and foremost, the proposed Councilmanic District
15 Plan that was placed on the County website we feel is
16 incomplete. The reason why I feel this way, on behalf of
17 Fanny Lou Hamer-Political Action Committee, are due to the
18 following factors.

19 Number one, the preliminary map did not list the nine
20 councilmanic districts by political precincts. It is
21 impossible to determine the councilmanic district that you
22 live in. The precinct name and number would have clarified
23 this issue. For example, I live in Villages of Marlboro, but
24 the map, from the map I can't tell whether or not it's
25 District 6 or District 9.

1 This map should have given me more specific information,
2 and therefore the map should have indicated specific district
3 boundaries by name and number. In short, to us this map
4 fails, I feel - I feel that it fails to allow people to
5 ascertain exactly where you live.

6 Number two, there's no racial, income, economic or
7 voting age demographics for any of the proposed districts.
8 This data is important to assess whether or not the proposed
9 plan violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act with regards
10 to Latinos and Whites, who are a minority here in Prince
11 George's County.

12 This failure is significant due to the fact that the
13 Redistricting Councilmanic Commission is all African-American
14 and all Democratic. This lack of minority, racial or
15 political presentation is questionable. This effort could be
16 seen by some as a Black political machine diluting the voting
17 rights of Whites and Latinos here in Prince George's County.

18 And lastly, there's no operation data to evaluate. The
19 ideal population target is approximately 96,000 individuals.
20 The redistricting law allows for five percent, plus or minus
21 five percent deviation. But how does one ascertain if these
22 districts' population totals are legal with respect to the
23 population deviation requirement? There is none listed.

24 So, in summary, this presentation is not an arbitrary
25 criticism of the Councilmanic Redistricting Commission. This

1 criticism speaks to a frustration with governmental entities
2 being open and transparent to the community. The Fanny Lou
3 Hamer-Political Action Committee hopes that this information
4 will be distributed on October 13th, 2011, I'm sorry, the
5 public hearing. This information, if it's not available
6 today, should be posted on the Councilmanic Redistricting
7 website before the plan is submitted to the County Council.

8 Thank you for your time and your efforts.

9 CHAIR: Thank you so much. In fact, I want to thank
10 Fanny Lou Hamer-PAC in general in terms of this season, if
11 you will, of redistricting process because they've been
12 involved in our process and the state process all along. And
13 I think you've gone a very long way to engage and inform the
14 public in a way. I think that really helps to make us a
15 better democracy.

16 We did not - Dale, I don't think that you brought the
17 demographic data. And I'm certain that it will be at the
18 public hearing for the Council because, as we said, our
19 consultant was the consultant who was the fair broker between
20 the opposing parties ten years ago when the State
21 redistricting was taken to court. And I can assure you that,
22 for every block he moves, he in fact makes sure that the
23 demographic data, no voters, neither White nor Black nor
24 Hispanic voters, are diluted.

1 In fact, if you recall at the beginning, we spoke to a
2 Census Designated Place that we did not change. And the
3 reason we did not change that is because it would have
4 diluted the Hispanic vote in that district, which we would
5 not do. And in fact, in District 2, the Hispanic vote has
6 performed for that district, and we believe it will continue
7 to do so into the future. So I appreciate your remarks, and
8 in fact you can look forward to that data.

9 I think we might consider, and I'll consult with the
10 other Commissioners, to put the demographic data on the map
11 on the website next week.

12 MS. WILLIAMS: Sounds good. Thank you very much.

13 CHAIR: Thank you so much.

14 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Mayor Lee Walker.

16 MAYOR WALKER: Thank you very much. Good morning.

17 CHAIR: Morning.

18 MS. BROWN: Good morning.

19 MAYOR WALKER: Chair Brown, Commissioners - I'm sorry,
20 Chair Taylor, Commissioner Brown and Commissioner Harrington,
21 first of all, I appreciate the opportunity of coming before
22 you this morning. And I'll make my comments brief. We are
23 aware of the legal responsibilities involved in the
24 redistricting process.

1 I'm requesting, we are requesting that the current make-
2 up of District 3, which is the district that I'm in
3 currently, generally remain as it is. We realize there have
4 to be some modifications, but generally we hope that it would
5 remain, for the most part, as it is. Due to the commonality
6 and work that has been done by the various communities as
7 they exist at the present time, including the work of Council
8 Member Eric Olson, we focus particularly along the 450
9 Corridor where a great deal of work has been done with the
10 businesses along that Corridor.

11 As the process moves forward, it is hoped that the
12 historical 450 Corridor will development [sic] and current
13 developments will remain or be given consideration.
14 Additionally, it is hoped that that 450 Corridor would be
15 considered as a boundary marker. Thank you again for the
16 work that you have done in addition to Park and Planning and
17 others involved in this process.

18 CHAIR: Mr. Walker, thank you so much. May I ask you a
19 question about your - on the comments? Do you perceive -
20 well, first of all, your current Council person stays for the
21 full term that you elected him or her.

22 MAYOR WALKER: I understand.

23 CHAIR: But do you imagine that the work along the 450
24 Corridor and the historical district is adversely impacted if

1 the entire community of College Park, the whole City of
2 College Park, is unified?

3 MAYOR WALKER: It will be impacted to an extent.
4 Adversely impacted, I can't say to a great extent, but it
5 will be impacted somewhat. So that is why we hope that that
6 would be given consideration as you move forward in this
7 process.

8 CHAIR: Thank you.

9 MR. HARRINGTON: Question.

10 CHAIR: Yes, Commissioner.

11 MR. HARRINGTON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I raised a
12 question earlier, and again, not predisposed to advocating
13 one thing or the other. With moving, with having Landover
14 Hills in District 5 and in having New Carrollton Metro in
15 District 5 with then parts of 450 in District 5, does that
16 answer the concern of having then the development which would
17 mostly be taking place at the Metro Station?

18 MAYOR WALKER: That will be an area of concern.

19 MR. HARRINGTON: Okay.

20 MAYOR WALKER: In addition to that, recently within the
21 last year, the Park and Planning Commission has had a number
22 of meetings regarding the 450 Corridor.

23 MR. HARRINGTON: Right.

24 MAYOR WALKER: Due to some testimony that I've submitted
25 before before the County Council and others.

1 MR. HARRINGTON: Right.

2 MAYOR WALKER: So, we hope that there be some
3 consideration given to that process. But, in answer to your
4 question, yes, that would be a factor.

5 MR. HARRINGTON: Thank you.

6 MAYOR WALKER: Thank you very much.

7 CHAIR: Thank you.

8 CLERK: Mary Cook.

9 MS. COOK: Thank you for the opportunity to let me speak
10 today. I'm Mary Cook. I'm in Councilmanic District 1, and
11 I'd like to assure you that College Park is only divided into
12 two Council Districts, District 1 and District 3. I'm
13 actually a resident of North College Park, and we often
14 emphasis that in North College Park because we're quite
15 different from the rest of College Park.

16 And I'm here today because the - my neighbors and I want
17 to strongly urge the Redistricting Commission to keep the
18 current southern boundary line for District 1 as it is.
19 There are several significant arguments that can be made in
20 favor of doing this. Our forefathers had the foresight to
21 establish a federal government with checks and balances. The
22 same should apply to all levels of government.

23 In the past, College Park was in only one district,
24 which allowed a County Council Member to carry out his
25 agenda, negatively impacting the north, the area north of

1 193. Such shenanigans should not be allowed to occur again.
2 Hence, checks and balances must be in place. By keeping the
3 current southern boundary, College Park would have two voices
4 on the County Council, which would help to ensure these
5 checks and balances on the issues impacting all of College
6 Park.

7 Previously, Council Member Nagle I think was trying to
8 emphasize the fact that we have commonality with areas north
9 of 193, including Beltsville, Laurel and, unlike Greenbelt,
10 which we would be, I don't want to say lumped with, but we
11 would be in with the district if we were part of District 3.
12 Some of the issues that we have in common with Laurel and
13 Beltsville are the development along Route 1 as well as the
14 transportations along that route as well.

15 There is a huge disparity in the amount of density
16 wanted or needed in the City of College Park. Those north of
17 193 became - I'd like to back track. It became particularly
18 evident during the Route 1 Sector Plan process that North
19 College Park prefers less density than the southern half of
20 the City, which promotes urban density. Moreover, North
21 College Park has the largest area of contiguous green space
22 in the City, an area where deer, foxes, turtles and possums
23 can still make their home, and which all of us must act as
24 stewards in College Park.

1 In conclusion, I respectfully reiterate the need for
2 North College Park to remain part of District 1, and I hope
3 that that will be a possibility and you will consider that.

4 CHAIR: Thank you so much. Everybody wants a piece of
5 College Park. You've got to love that. You know, I want to
6 go back to something that Commissioner Davis said. We are in
7 a, just a fantastic situation where, notwithstanding those
8 who say no one wants to come here, the County has grown by
9 60,000 plus people. And every single County Council district
10 grew but one. And the numbers were pretty outstanding.

11 If you take those, if you take out 6 and a 9, where the
12 growth was the largest, the rest was in 1 and the others.
13 And so, we really are in a situation where some of the
14 choices will be difficult. And so the justification for the
15 choices will have to be in line with what the law really
16 requires us to do.

17 And I, you know, I just say that again because I think
18 it sounds a little bit like we have an option to do nothing
19 in some cases, and we simply don't. Next.

20 CLERK: Doris Sensabaugh.

21 MR. HARRINGTON: I have a question.

22 CHAIR: Commissioner Harrington has a question.

23 MR. HARRINGTON: Ms. Cook, can I - I'd like to hear your
24 perspective on this. And that is so there's one case to be
25 made that, being in different councilmanic districts helps

1 preserve the sort of civic character in that place so that
2 then you have the level of advocacy that you want with
3 respect to preservation issues and conservation issues or
4 what have you as opposed to then another side that may be
5 more apt for growth or what have you.

6 Is there, and again, I'm not trying to propose anything
7 but I really want to hear your perspective and so the
8 representing the perspective earlier. Is there a case to be
9 made however, and I saw this in my own experience being on
10 the County Council, of being in one councilmanic district
11 whereby then the civic struggles I will call it can happen
12 within one place of advocacy so that then the representation
13 that you receive on the County Council can be, can represent
14 that one sort of place of advocacy rather than having two
15 places where in fact then sometimes then it doesn't get, it
16 doesn't get resolved?

17 I see my former colleague in the back, and I can recall
18 him having to wrestle with another colleague on some of these
19 issues. And the Council then, the other Council Members
20 being sort of then trying to play referee of these issues
21 where, in fact, you know, which one then prevails? And so,
22 does it make sense in some ways to have this sort of civic
23 tension happen in one councilmanic district than to be for
24 that to be split?

1 MS. COOK: I have to say that we're probably an unusual
2 situation in that all those residents north of 193 were very,
3 very happy to be under Mr. Dernoga. And he kept, he stood by
4 us through the Route 1 Sector Plan process, I mean, among
5 other things, but that was probably the biggest thing when I
6 was a Council Member there. And I don't believe that a
7 representative who will probably come from south of 193,
8 whether it be from College Park or another area, is going to
9 have the special understanding that a person who comes from
10 north of 193 might have, whether they be from Beltsville or
11 from Laurel.

12 MR. HARRINGTON: If I could jump in, see that goes back
13 to the earlier comment that was made from the District 6
14 person from Fanny Lou Hamer that suggests a precinct-density
15 issue that you're concerned about where a person -- the
16 person who's coming from that representing you may come from
17 denser areas, which may then dilute your voice.

18 MS. COOK: Right, and I have to say, because we have the
19 University of Maryland in the City of College Park, we often
20 find that issues are decided around the University of
21 Maryland. Whereas, we north of 193, are not directly
22 impacted by many of those issues, and, at the same time, we
23 lose our services because they're directed at the University
24 of Maryland and the students.

1 So, actually, even though there may have been some
2 tensions on the County Council and even within our city, it
3 has helped us to get better representation.

4 MR. HARRINGTON: Thank you. Thank you for clarifying
5 that.

6 CHAIR: Thank you.

7 CLERK: Doris Bensabaugh [sic].

8 MS. SENSABAUGH: Good morning.

9 CHAIR: Good morning.

10 MS. SENSABAUGH: My name is Doris Sensabaugh. I live in
11 Glenwood Park, one of the oldest subdivisions in Prince
12 George's County. My community is in District 3. My purpose
13 for speaking at this hearing is to state our opposition to
14 this redistricting. First, the redistricting has lacked
15 transparency for us in Glenwood Park. We only learned about
16 this process a few days ago. Hence, we were never able to
17 communicate our views to the Commission before the map was
18 completed for District 5 in which we are to be located.

19 We have learned that District 5 includes municipalities.
20 Glenwood Park is a small, unincorporated community of 100
21 homes, seven of which are on the market. Forcing us into
22 District 5 is unknown territory. We feel we might even get
23 lost in District 5.

24 Finally, for some years now, Glenwood Park has had a
25 wonderful relationship with Lincoln Vista, Glen Dale and the

1 Seabrook communities and we want to keep it that way. So, in
2 conclusion, the residents in Glenwood Park wish to remain in
3 District 3. Thank you very much.

4 CHAIR: Thank you.

5 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

6 MR. HARRINGTON: Thank you.

7 MS. SENSABAUGH: Any questions?

8 MR. HARRINGTON: No.

9 CHAIR: Thank you.

10 CLERK: Carl Cooper.

11 MR. COOPER: Good morning, my name is Carl Cooper. I'm
12 a resident of District 6, and I live in Oakcreek community.
13 I'm here today because I tried to actually voice my comments
14 on the web page, which was very difficult. The web page was,
15 the page was distorted when you go to add, submit your
16 comments.

17 So, I'm here today just to say that I am strongly
18 opposed to the redistricting. I have a concern. Currently,
19 I live in Oakcreek community. And on my driver's license, it
20 says I'm an Upper Marlboro resident. Under this new
21 districting, I'll be placed - I don't know if my address will
22 change to Kettering or to Largo. I'm actually on Church
23 Road.

24 Again, I strongly oppose it because currently I have
25 children that are in school. And under the new

1 redistricting, you guys, it takes both the elementary school
2 to the north, which is Kingsford, and moves Kingsford up into
3 District I do believe 4. And then where my high school
4 daughter is, it takes Wise and splits it to District 9,
5 leaving me both without the elementary school that my
6 daughter will be going to and also the high school.

7 So, again, you know, I'm very concerned on how my
8 community, Oakcreek, is situated. It's like we're split in
9 between, you know, Bowie to the north and Upper Marlboro to
10 the south. And we're just sitting there, and it's like we're
11 not getting any representation as far as where we're going as
12 far as my community.

13 Again, my main concern is the school systems that are
14 currently proposed where my children will go to are low-
15 performance schools. Many of them haven't reached AYP. And
16 again, that was my concern, and I would hope that you guys
17 would reconsider where you're placing us in the district.
18 Thank you for your time.

19 MR. HARRINGTON: Thank you.

20 MS. BROWN: I have just one comment to make, well, two
21 actually. With respect to your postal district, that's not a
22 consideration that the current County Council Redistricting
23 Commission does. That's something that you'll probably have
24 to take up with the Postmaster General of your local post
25 office. And keep in mind that a lot of post offices are

1 going to be closing in the area. So you may want to take
2 that issue up specifically with the Postmaster General.

3 With respect to your school boundaries, the boundaries
4 in which your children will go to school is a decision made
5 by the School Board. It's not a decision made by this
6 Commission. However, I encourage you to reach out to your
7 school board member, because I'm not sure if there are going
8 to be any boundary changes with respect. They just did a
9 recent boundary change with the school system.

10 However, there will be a school board representative
11 boundary change. Again, that process does not occur with
12 this Commission. It actually happens at the State level, so
13 contacting your State delegation, your senators and your
14 State delegation will also be important to you.

15 MR. COOPER: Okay. Thank you.

16 CHAIR: Mr. Walker, in fact, the County school -

17 MR. COOPER: Cooper, I'm sorry.

18 CHAIR: I'm sorry, Mr. Cooper. The County School Board
19 redistricts I think will be submitted as of September 1st,
20 right, as well. They're actually going to go in at the same
21 time that ours go in, and so you will be able to see. And I
22 know their work has been very concerned about keeping
23 elementary schools and the feeder schools, all the feeder
24 schools together. So that process is taking place right now,
25 and School Board Member Burroughs is in the back. And

1 Delegate Aisha Braveboy is here, who is leading the School
2 Board redistricting process. And they'll both be able to -
3 oh, District 1 School Board Member is here also. So, and Mr.
4 Armwood is here. He can get your question answered today.

5 MR. COOPER: Thank you very much.

6 CHAIR: Thank you so much.

7 CLERK: Delegate Braveboy.

8 MS. BRAVEBOY: Thank you so much, Madam Chair and
9 Members of the Commission.

10 CHAIR: Good morning.

11 MS. BRAVEBOY: It is an honor to be before you today.
12 I'm Delegate Aisha Braveboy. I'm also a resident of District
13 6. I live in the Lake Arbor community. But, as a Delegate
14 for District 25, I represent parts of Council District 7,
15 Council District 8, Council District 9, as well as Council
16 District 6.

17 So, I wanted to really start by telling you that I know
18 the awesome task before you. We're going through the same
19 process dealing with the School Board districts and, of
20 course, the congressional districts. And at some point in
21 the near future, we'll be looking at our state legislative
22 districts. But one of the things that I wanted to mention
23 that I was really happy that you all are doing, which we are
24 also attempting to do, is keeping our Census Designated
25 Places together.

1 I think that the map that you have produced, while you
2 might tweak it based on comments you've heard today, I think
3 it does a really good job of giving those entities, those
4 unincorporated areas the same sort of status as our
5 incorporated areas, which is really important because most of
6 our residents don't live in incorporated municipalities.

7 They actually live in unincorporated areas that are,
8 that the community has really defined. It has, you know,
9 they share school systems. They share roadways. They share
10 some natural resources that really are important to them as a
11 community but heretofore have not really been respected in
12 the redistricting process. So I really applaud you all for
13 that.

14 I see that I have some of my wonderful constituents here
15 from the Camp Springs area. I want to say, in particular,
16 I'm very pleased that you all have taken this opportunity to
17 put Camp Springs together and propose that Camp Springs be a
18 united community. That is very important, and I see that
19 you've done that with some of the other Census Designated
20 Places throughout the County as well.

21 So I just wanted to come here as a supporter of your
22 efforts. Any information you all need from us with respect
23 to the School Board redistricting process, we'll be releasing
24 our draft map very shortly. And we look forward to working
25 with you.

1 CHAIR: Delegate Braveboy, thank you so much. Is there
2 a contact number or person that people can reach out to who
3 want to become engaged in the or get information about the
4 School Board redistrict and become engaged in the State
5 redistricting, which of course includes redrawing
6 congressional lines and the state legislative lines as well?

7 MS. BRAVEBOY: Sure, with respect to the School Board
8 lines, I'm chairing a committee with Delegate Marvin Holmes
9 and Senator Joanne Benson and Chair of the School Board,
10 Regina Jacobs. My office number is 301-858-3707. Again,
11 that's 301-858-3707. We also, my e-mail address is very
12 easy, delegatebraveboy@yahoo.com. So if anyone would like a
13 copy of the draft map, it should be available next week. We
14 will be happy to send it to you. And that's, again, just
15 Delegate Braveboy, which is my last name, B-R-A-V-E-B-O-Y, at
16 yahoo.com.

17 CHAIR: Thank you so much.

18 MS. BRAVEBOY: Thank you. And, with respect to the
19 congressional and the state legislative redistricting, the
20 governor appoints an advisory committee similar to the one
21 that's been appointed here by the County. And that's headed
22 by Secretary Hitchcock and that the membership is five
23 members basically that the governor has appointed. And
24 they're holding public hearings throughout the State. The

1 Prince George's public hearing was just a few weeks ago, but
2 that's their - their process is under way.

3 CHAIR: Thank you.

4 MS. BRAVEBOY: Okay, thank you.

5 CLERK: Rita Williams.

6 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning.

7 CHAIR: Morning.

8 MS. WILLIAMS: My name is Rita Williams. I'm currently
9 living in District 6. I live in Oakcreek Estates and right
10 off of Central Avenue. And I have a concern also in regards
11 to the redistricting. Why wasn't our area included in
12 District 4 opposed to being in District 6? Is there a reason
13 as far as, is it population or -

14 CHAIR: Well, let me just answer you to the extent that
15 I can. We didn't take particular communities and say, well,
16 let's move Oaks Creek over here. Let's put this part of
17 College Park over there. What we tried to do was to take the
18 principles, the legal principles and the policy principles,
19 and then to try to make the communities compact and to create
20 the equal sizes.

21 We had seven district, I mean eight districts, all of
22 which had grown. And so, in terms of the drawing of the
23 lines, Oakcreek wound up in District 6, and it - if I'm
24 thinking it, you were always in District 6?

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Right, right.

1 CHAIR: And there were, and in terms of the
2 reconfiguration, there was no need for us to consider moving
3 it to District 4. If there is a compelling reason, we'd
4 certainly like to hear it. That's what we're going to do
5 this week is take all of these comments and go back to the
6 drawing board to see if these can be accommodated within the
7 guidelines of the legal and the policy requirements that we
8 set forth.

9 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. I just noticed on the maps that
10 you have in the back that we have Capitol Heights, I think,
11 and District Heights, included in the, our district now. And
12 I know like Queen Anne's County, as far as populations, I was
13 just wondering why that we are getting District Heights and
14 Capitol Heights in our districts? Why is that? Why are they
15 being included as far as populations? Is the number -

16 MS. BROWN: Again, District 6 was probably what was the
17 largest district that gained population, so it had to lose
18 populations. And again, as I stated in my opening - well,
19 not my opening remarks but my, after I think the first person
20 spoke, I indicated that when you have to lose so much
21 population because of the growth in that population, and it
22 has to be shared or split with the next contiguous district,
23 it has a domino effect.

24 And so, again, we didn't look at any particular
25 community. And, as Commissioner Harrington said, we came

1 with no preconceived notion of districts. In fact, one of
2 the principles that you saw earlier that we considered was
3 that we did not consider incumbency residents. So, that will
4 let you know how disengaged we were in the political
5 politicizing of this process.

6 So, it was based purely on equal population and how to
7 best achieve those. But, as Chair Taylor mentioned, if
8 there's a compelling reason that you'd like to share with us
9 for us to consider why your community should be in District 4
10 as opposed to District 6, we'd like to hear that from you
11 now.

12 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Right now, we have like signs on
13 214. It says "Welcome to Bowie" on both sides. So, I was
14 wondering why is it that, if they're saying "Welcome to
15 Bowie" right now, that we're considered now not part of Bowie
16 but actually part of I guess District 6 and not District 4?

17 MS. HARRINGTON: In trying to keep - and I thought my
18 former colleague, Delegate Braveboy, did a great job in
19 explaining that. In trying to keep - and the Commission as
20 well - trying to keep Census Designated Places together. So
21 prior to this, places like Bowie were split in several
22 districts. So, it's confusing when you see a sign that says
23 "Welcome to Bowie." It doesn't have anything, didn't have
24 any relationship to whether or not what district you were in,
25 whether you'd be in District 4 or in District 6 in this, and

1 the considerations that we've heard from citizens that we've
2 tried to keep Census Designated Places intact.

3 And so now you have, you know, mostly Bowie, I think,
4 and I could safely say mostly Bowie is now in - all of Bowie
5 -

6 MS. BROWN: All of Bowie is in one.

7 MR. HARRINGTON: All of Bowie is in District 4, right?
8 You, on the one hand, have always been in District 6 and now
9 will remain in District 6. And so, I agree with my colleague
10 that, if there's a compelling case with respect to population
11 or geography or, you know, some anticipation of annexation
12 from Bowie to, you know, Oakcreek, then, you know, you could
13 state that.

14 But it adheres to this other principle of trying to keep
15 Census Designated Places together, which heretofore have been
16 split. Does that answer your question? So we didn't look at
17 communities per - we looked at communities as a way of
18 holding Census Designated Places. But, in your case, if it
19 didn't, we didn't want to split that or add to it if it
20 caused then the plus or minus five population deviation,
21 which would then put us in conflict with the law.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. And you did say this is a draft,
23 right?

24 MR. HARRINGTON: This is a draft. This -

25 MS. WILLIAMS: So it can be changed?

1 MR. HARRINGTON: It can. It will be - we will take the
2 considerations of everybody in this room and the comments.
3 We will certainly meet on those. There will be another draft
4 submitted to the County Council by September 1st. Then the
5 County Council will have hearings. And then it will be left
6 to the County Council after we deliberate to make any other
7 further adjustments to the proposal.

8 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you very much.

9 MR. HARRINGTON: Thank you, ma'am.

10 CHAIR: Thank you.

11 MS. WILLIAMS: Bye.

12 CLERK: Pat Fletcher.

13 MS. FLETCHER: Almost good afternoon, I'm Pat Fletcher,
14 District 5. I live at 1531 Belle Haven Drive in Landover.
15 Can I just ask you a quick question? When you say Census
16 Designated area, what is the definition of that?

17 CHAIR: Dale, what's a Census Designated Place?

18 MR. HUTCHISON: A Census Designated Place is a
19 geographical area defined by the Census Bureau, with the
20 assistance of local government, to identify communities and
21 to provide Census data by that geography, so similar to a
22 municipality. It's a geographical area where the Census
23 Bureau gives us the Census data based on that geography.

24 MS. FLETCHER: Okay.

1 MR. HUTCHISON: There are some details in the law that
2 talks about how to establish the boundaries, but there's no
3 population, minimum or maximum population required. It's
4 basically a geographical index.

5 MS. FLETCHER: Okay. Well, I originally was in
6 Councilmanic District 5. Had been -- had the same - the area
7 that I lived in is right off of Sheriff Road in a community
8 called Village Green. And all of us have been represented by
9 one councilmanic person. What you have done now is split us
10 where I'm in 6 and my neighbor that lives, I look out my
11 window, she's in 5. But there's a community of interest in
12 terms of Village Green, particularly since we have paid off
13 our mortgage and going into some other stuff now. But if you
14 could pull up the street map, I can actually show you because
15 what you have done is, going up Nallie Road - and Mr.
16 Henderson is going to talk some more.

17 He was asking me in reference to some ideas on how it
18 can be dropped. But it's right off of Sheriff Road. It's
19 where the stadium is. The stadium used to be in District 6,
20 I mean 5. The way you have it now it's now in District 6.
21 But if you go up Nallie Road, after you come up Belle Haven
22 Drive, then go up Nallie Road, Village Green is right there
23 and Nallie Road as well, which was always, all of that was
24 District 6.

1 Right where you see Village Green, Belle Haven Drive,
2 okay, right there is Belle Haven Drive where I live, Nallie
3 Road, that was all District 5, but you also have Belle Haven
4 Drive on the other side, Village Green Drive, and that's part
5 of the same development. So you have split.

6 CHAIR: So it is a development. Although, Mike, am I to
7 understand, it is in separate Census Designated Place?

8 MS. FLETCHER: Right. And that was the question that I
9 was asking, what was your definition of that.

10 CHAIR: Are they, they are unincorporated Census
11 Designated Places?

12 MS. FLETCHER: We are unincorporated, right, because
13 right across the street is Palmer Park. It's Landover, the
14 Landover area.

15 CHAIR: Okay. Yes, we'll look at that, but it is. But
16 what it does mean is part of that development is in one
17 Census Designated Place and another development, and that the
18 other part of the development is in another Census Designated
19 Place. And isn't it a great idea that citizens come to tell
20 us things that we might not see?

21 MS. FLETCHER: Right, right. And I kind of figured
22 that. And I too understand how you have to have the numbers.
23 You have to meet the numbers and stuff, but it's really
24 split. Okay, thank you.

1 MS. BROWN: Thank you. Dale, which two CDPs are we
2 concerned with?

3 MR. HUTCHISON: I'm trying to see if we have that data
4 available. We can find out. I just don't know whether we
5 can do it right this second.

6 CHAIR: Okay.

7 CLERK: Jim Henderson.

8 MR. HENDERSON: Good morning -

9 CHAIR: Good morning.

10 MR. HENDERSON: -- or afternoon or whatever time it is,
11 Madam Chair and Commissioners. I'm Jim Henderson, and I live
12 in the Seabrook CDP. And that is presently in Councilmanic
13 District 3. Heretofore though, it was in Councilmanic
14 District 4. So, I'm trying to get some sense of movement
15 from Route 193.

16 Council Member Turner talked about using that as a
17 dividing line for District 4. If you move Seabrook, taking
18 Route 564 all the way down to Cipriano, move that out back to
19 District 4, then that would impact what Council Member
20 Fletcher, I mean Ms. Fletcher was talking about for her
21 district, moving five's area to include FedEx Field and the
22 old Landover -

23 MR. HARRINGTON: Landover Mall.

1 MR. HENDERSON: -- Landover Mall and that area and that.
2 So I don't know how the numbers look though, so it's because
3 of -

4 CHAIR: And that's kind of always the issue but okay.

5 MR. HENDERSON: But heretofore, Seabrook was always a
6 part of 4 until the last Census change and put it into 3. As
7 a matter of fact, it looked like it was gerrymandered because
8 only a few districts - it was one of those split CDPs. They
9 took out maybe two or three precincts and put it into 3. And
10 then 4 crossed those areas from Bowie into Greenbelt.

11 So, I like the idea that you're going to keep the
12 Seabrook area as one contiguous CDP, but I would rather it be
13 in 4 like I was previously. Then if you take it out of 5,
14 then you're going to have to move 5 down past where Ms.
15 Fletcher was talking about, taking to include probably FedEx
16 Field, and then that will impact 6 again. Or perhaps, there
17 may be some, it may incorporate losing, 4 losing some of that
18 area that they're picking up out of Seabrook. So just kind
19 of play with the numbers.

20 CHAIR: Thank you. That's helpful to us, but you really
21 described the process that is the challenge.

22 MR. HENDERSON: Right.

23 CHAIR: Because the northern part of the County has some
24 density. And, you know, you move around big pieces of area
25 and you think, well, that must be like 25,000 people, and you

1 find out it's not, and then you've got to reconfigure the
2 whole rest of the County because one community might wind up
3 being moved. But these particular very specific things are
4 enormously helpful to us as we go back this last time to try
5 to make that work.

6 And I can tell you I can recall trying to, looking at
7 certain communities that we thought would allow us to make a
8 move and then having the numbers not work. And not meeting
9 the letter of the law is not something we can do, but this is
10 very helpful. Thank you so much.

11 MR. HENDERSON: By the way, on the western part of
12 Princess Garden Parkway, New Carrollton's City Hall is in
13 Princess Garden Parkway. But you have Princess Garden
14 Parkway in District 5, and you have New Carrollton in 3.

15 MS. BROWN: Okay, thank you. In fact, before we call
16 the next one, can I recall Mr., Councilman Wildoner from New
17 Carrollton, please? Can you tell me what's more important to
18 the City of New Carrollton to be in the same councilmanic
19 district with College Park as your comments are or to include
20 the New Carrollton Metro Station?

21 MR. WILDONER: I guess you're talking about - I guess
22 some balance there. We want representation in the New
23 Carrollton Metro Station as it goes forward. Right now in
24 Councilmanic District 5, there are very few people that live

1 along that corridor in her district that have, would make any
2 impact on the New Carrollton Metro at all.

3 MS. BROWN: No, I'm sorry. Maybe I didn't phrase the
4 question.

5 MR. WILDONER: Right.

6 MS. BROWN: What's more important to New Carrollton, to
7 be in the same councilmanic district with College Park or to
8 make sure that the New Carrollton Metro is included in the
9 same district with the city and all of New Carrollton? It's
10 -

11 MR. WILDONER: We never considered College Park. That
12 was never mentioned, I guess, in our Council, as far as
13 considering College Park. We just want the boundaries where
14 the most population of New Carrollton is involved in the New
15 Carrollton Metro discussions. Whether it's District 5 or
16 District 3, I don't think it should matter. But we want to
17 be involved population-wise. There's nobody that lives in
18 the non-residential areas --

19 MS. BROWN: Right. I understand.

20 MR. WILDONER: -- of the Metro so that's not -

21 MS. BROWN: I'm sorry. Maybe I - sorry for cutting you
22 off.

23 MR. WILDONER: We never looked at, you know, whether
24 it's College Park or Greenbelt. I mean, we're in the four
25 cities that has New Carrollton, Berwyn Heights, College Park

1 and Greenbelt in a coalition. We already have an alliance
2 that work together.

3 MS. BROWN: Okay. I'm sorry. Let me wrap because we
4 need to get to the others, but I just wanted to ask that
5 question because I thought the comments from New Carrollton
6 was that they wanted to be part of the same councilmanic
7 district with College Park. But I'm hearing something
8 different, so we'll go to the next one.

9 MR. WILDONER: Yeah, I think we want to be - we want to
10 extend District 3 but there's no, actually, the way we see
11 it, there is no residential areas in that Metro area. And we
12 currently have Memorandums of Understanding with Metro. So
13 we'd like to keep that in the District. And currently Eric
14 Olson has been negotiating that for the last four years.
15 We'd like to get some consistency in governance and also
16 consistency in what is happening in that area, as opposed to
17 giving it to a brand new Council Member who's in District 5
18 that has no voters that actually are interested in that issue
19 along that corridor.

20 MS. BROWN: Okay. We understand. Thank you.

21 MR. WILDONER: Okay.

22 CLERK: Former Council Member Dernoga.

23 MR. DERNOGA: Good morning sort of.

24 CHAIR: Good morning.

25 MS. BROWN: Good afternoon.

1 MR. DERNOGA: Thank you for the opportunity to come down
2 and speak. I'm Tom Dernoga, Laurel, West Laurel. I want to
3 congratulate you on a really tough job and doing it well.
4 Unfortunately, that means I had to come up and pick at a
5 couple of things in spite of the great work you've done
6 because I can, just looking at it, I know you push here. It
7 comes out there. And every time you find one answer, it's
8 hard to - you create another problem. But I took from your
9 comments about having a, trying to accommodate 90 percent of
10 the comments that you'll still strive to accommodate 90
11 percent after we conclude today.

12 The point that I want to get to, I noticed with the very
13 first map that came out, and my comments started with the
14 very first map, I want to correct myself in the first major
15 paragraph about the deviation. I noted that that deviation
16 was not obvious on the map that's here today, so I had to
17 sort of guess at what it was, so I'm just going to quickly
18 correct.

19 The first map had a really large deviation for District
20 1. It was the largest, and I thought that was unfair. But I
21 couldn't tell what this map's was. Now that I can read it in
22 the back, it's done what I had hoped, which is make it less
23 of a deviation.

24 CHAIR: We did.

1 MR. DERNOGA: So that is good. So, just so you realize
2 that I realize that change, but I couldn't find that
3 information. I would note that the comments from Fanny Lou
4 Hamer-PAC, I would agree the lack of precinct information is
5 difficult. There is a precinct map on the County web site,
6 but you've got to know where to find it. And I did that and
7 pulled it up and used that to make the rest of my comments.

8 The concern that I have, I understand the legal issue
9 surrounding the need to keep Census tracts together, but it's
10 not, this type of situation will be the situation where
11 that's the be-all-and-end-all. And to the extent that it
12 makes sense for communities to be divided in some fashion
13 because of common interests, and you're not making a
14 significant number of split Census tracts, I don't know that
15 that's going to be a disqualifying factor.

16 What I'm concerned about is when you remove North
17 College Park, and I thank my fan club from North College Park
18 for being here today. At least I did something right in nine
19 years. The concern I have -- and I realize you've made
20 changes from the original map, and I note that in my
21 comments.

22 But when you bring in the remainder of the Wildlife
23 Refuge, BARC and Goddard Space Flight Center and Bowie State
24 University, you're adding a lot of land with virtually no
25 population, except way out at Bowie State University. And I

1 want to support the comments from the Bowie City
2 representatives that what you're going to have -- and this
3 actually, to touch on Ms. Canning's comment earlier about the
4 legal requirements, it looks like a contiguous map. But when
5 you actually fill in all the open space on the map in the
6 Wildlife Refuge, you're taking Bowie State University and
7 Kimberwick and sticking them out on an island.

8 You're also, and if you note in my comments, you're
9 splitting, not Census tracts, you're splitting precincts.
10 You split four or five precincts and so you have precinct
11 boundaries that run through the Councilmanic boundary. And
12 that doesn't seem to make sense, because you're going to have
13 these divisions. And they seem to be done to incorporate all
14 this non-populated areas running along BARC, Goddard Space
15 Flight and the Wildlife Refuge.

16 So, the main concern I have is you're creating this
17 island out in Bowie, and those folks are going to have a very
18 difficult time being represented by somebody who's in the
19 Laurel, Beltsville, College Park area. And it's really going
20 to be unfair to those folks.

21 In terms of suggestion, if you put those areas back into
22 Bowie, you would have to take out some of the area that
23 extended west from District 4 to the west in the central part
24 of the County and perhaps, you know, look at that. It's in
25 the Glen Dale area. I'm not going to sit here and try to do

1 your job, but I realize you have problems and push here, it
2 comes out there. But I think it's unfair to the Bowie State
3 and the North Old Town Bowie people to be put on an island.

4 We have that problem right now, and I'll wrap up. I
5 know my time is up. In representing Council District 1, in
6 the last legislative redistricting, they put District 23 in
7 South Laurel in five precincts. And those five precincts
8 kind of felt like they were on the island of Bowie, because
9 there's a big gap of the Wildlife Refuge and BARC. So
10 there's a several-mile, you know, difference. And it's sort
11 of like the outlying areas, and they don't feel like they get
12 the attention they deserve, and this would be the reverse of
13 that. And I don't think that would really be what you're
14 looking for.

15 I would note, and I know you have issues with District
16 2, but Council District 1 used to run down the County line
17 further south of Adelphi. And those Adelphi areas actually
18 have commonality with the areas right above them. That's all
19 considered Adelphi, and that was taken away in the last
20 redistricting I think to create more of a Latino-based
21 district. But the flip of that was to put North College Park
22 into Council District 1.

23 So, you could go back and go back the old way. The
24 current way that you're doing it I think creates a problem
25 for the Bowie folks. So, I would urge you to listen to the

1 College Park representatives and see if it is possible to
2 keep North College Park in Council District 1. Thank you.

3 MS. BROWN: Just a comment on splitting the precincts, I
4 think I made this comment earlier, but this process and this
5 Commission has been very a-political. In fact, we have not
6 considered the precincts, but what we have done is submitted
7 the draft maps to the local election board. And they will,
8 in turn, have to deal with all of the precinct issues, not
9 only with the County Council districting but, as you know,
10 the State process as well.

11 So, again, we primarily tried to focus on community of
12 interest and keeping Census Designated Places together
13 because that was the comments that we heard consistently
14 throughout all of the public hearings. So, in terms of
15 looking at the precinct, we can probably be able to provide
16 that data, but we're going to leave how precincts are drawn
17 or considered to the election board.

18 MR. DERNOGA: I hear you, but then you're going to have
19 a State-design - the State's probably going to be following
20 the precinct boundaries, and the County lines are not going
21 to be following the precinct boundaries. So you'll have
22 precincts that - in this case, you're going to have precincts
23 divided between District 1 and District 4. And they're all
24 going to be voting in the same voting place. And I think
25 that's going to create confusion.

1 And for a number of those splits, you're actually
2 splitting off non-populated areas or virtually non-populated
3 areas. So from a numerical impact, if you included them back
4 into District 4 where they were, you're not upsetting the
5 numerical balance in any way. I mean, I'm talking Goddard
6 Space Flight Center, BARC, Wildlife Refuge, and you're
7 bringing the line, splitting it right down to where the
8 population is, but you're not including the population. So
9 why bother splitting the precinct? It's not getting you
10 anywhere.

11 I could give you examples. They're in my notes there,
12 but it's in the 21-13 Goddard Space Flight, 14-08 the
13 Glendale, Robert Montessori School, 14-09 at Old Bowie.
14 Okay, so you have all these splits. I'm just not
15 understanding what the value you're getting out of that.

16 CHAIR: I think we have to go back, and I appreciate
17 your comments too. We have to go back and look at that.
18 But, as it relates to the precincts, I think the last report
19 tried to tell, and the report tried to say, well, we took
20 this precinct and went over there and took this precinct and
21 went over there. But that last process incorporated the
22 politics to the extent that we did not.

23 MS. BROWN: Right.

24 CHAIR: Quite frankly, we did not, because the way the
25 numbers can be moved and adjusted, including with community

1 input, we can achieve the letter and the spirit of the law.
2 And these additional comments allow us to then go back and
3 make adjustments that allow us to continue to do that and to
4 make sure that every single possible voter, whether D or R or
5 White or Black or Hispanic or Asian, can be properly
6 represented.

7 So the comments you make are incredibly valuable to us,
8 but I think, when we, in the report, report what it is we
9 shifted, it will not be about precincts. It will be about
10 specific perhaps community areas or Census blocks. And so we
11 chose completely to take, which is very difficult today.
12 Whether it's a local, state or congressional redistricting,
13 it's very difficult to take the politics out of it, but I
14 think we've been able to achieve that to a great degree. But
15 these additional comments help us a lot.

16 MR. DERNOGA: Okay. All right. I guess I'll leave it
17 at that. Thank you for the -

18 CHAIR: Thank you so much.

19 MR. HARRINGTON: Can I go?

20 CHAIR: Sure.

21 MR. HARRINGTON: What my former colleague is saying
22 isn't thank you for the comments. It's two things. Number
23 one, similar to the comment that Mr. Henderson made around
24 FedEx Field and around Landover Mall, with one being in 5 and
25 one being in 6, is that these are places that don't have

1 population yet. They're split, which is causing some splits
2 in neighborhoods. First comment.

3 Second comment is the precinct question is an
4 interesting one that I would suggest that we have our
5 consultant and Park and Planning look at, because what it
6 ultimately gets to is that then people are confused. And
7 they're being split from one precinct to the other, which may
8 cause them some sort of confusion in where they vote and who
9 is representing them. And I think that's the point that Mr.
10 Dernoga is making.

11 MR. DERNOGA: Yeah, particularly in 14-09.

12 MR. HARRINGTON: Right.

13 MR. DERNOGA: Because that's one that's actually
14 populated.

15 MR. HARRINGTON: I mean, I think, as we drill down in
16 this, it will be interesting to see, particularly in those
17 instances where you have a split, you know, the College
18 Parks. And I'm not suggesting that we do that because it may
19 cause some other population issues. But particularly in the
20 areas that are not populated may be, you know, deserves
21 perhaps some drilling down and looking at, you know, some
22 precincts.

23 I hear what my former colleague is saying. I appreciate
24 the written comments.

1 MR. DERNOGA: Thank you. And I would note that
2 splitting communities is a double-edged sword. Getting two
3 representatives who are good is fantastic.

4 CHAIR: Right.

5 MR. DERNOGA: Getting two representatives who are bad is
6 a nightmare.

7 CHAIR: Right.

8 MR. DERNOGA: Getting one, one way or the other, you
9 know, it all depends on who you elect. I mean, that's really
10 what it comes down to, and you can win either way with that.
11 So thank you very much.

12 CHAIR: Well, I think also now it's pretty tough to
13 imagine. I mean I think, because we're at this process now,
14 people are thinking well I'm going to lose that great
15 representative. But the reality is you keep everybody you
16 have right now until there is another election. Therefore,
17 you are not losing anybody that's representing you right now,
18 but -

19 MR. DERNOGA: Don't short-sell the voters out here,
20 because they know who they got for eight years and who they
21 have, who's going to be gone in three, you know, three and a
22 half years.

23 CHAIR: Yeah, right.

1 MR. DERNOGA: Some of them are looking at the people
2 they've got for eight years and saying, I like that person.
3 Don't push them out.

4 MS. BROWN: No, it's not. The fact is that you got a
5 great person.

6 CHAIR: No. The fact is they can't be pushed out.

7 MS. BROWN: Eight years they're gone, you know. It's
8 the law. It's part of the Charter. You can't - unless they
9 go back and undo term limits, then, you know, it is what it
10 is.

11 MR. DERNOGA: I'm with you. I'll keep term limits.
12 Thank you.

13 CHAIR: Thank you so much.

14 CLERK: Patricia Thornton.

15 MS. THORNTON: Good afternoon -

16 COMMISSION MEMBERS: Good afternoon.

17 MS. THORNTON: -- Chair Taylor, Commissioners Harrington
18 and Ms. Brown Davis.

19 CHAIR: Davis Brown.

20 MS. BROWN: Davis Brown but Brown is fine.

21 MS. THORNTON: Davis Brown, thank you. Since protocol's
22 already been observed, I thank you for the opportunity to
23 present to you this afternoon, as it is now. I also want to
24 commend you. When you began, you talked about the rules
25 suggesting that these areas be compact, contiguous and equal.

1 I've been with Park and Planning at the end of 1999 and
2 have reviewed what went on in 1990 and 2000. And I don't
3 know if many of you know, but the boundary lines that are
4 being suggested are quite ambitious and certainly speak to
5 not having any predisposition any way. And I certainly want
6 to commend you on reducing our amount of cuts in our
7 districts.

8 For those of you who don't know, the new market tax
9 credit to many other business opportunities are based on your
10 CDPs and that Census district populations, those particular
11 areas. So, I just wanted to thank you for that.

12 Beyond that, I wanted to mention that I happen to live
13 in - oh, I should have done the protocol. I live in
14 Mitchellville and I'm located in District 5 currently, which
15 is divided at Lottsford Road between 5 and 6. As it is
16 designated off of Lottsford Road near Lasta Vista Road in the
17 Fox Lake community, it appears that we have one of the
18 situations that was mentioned by Ms. Fletcher. And that is
19 that a street actually has a break between now District 4 and
20 6.

21 And I don't know whether that's a councilmanic district
22 break or whether it's - I mean a CDP break or not, and of
23 course in keeping with the interest of not splitting
24 districts, if that were the case and, of course, I'm fine
25 with that. And the reason I applauded your efforts is

1 because I know that so much of your money, so much of your
2 statistics, so much of your demographic information, so much
3 of how we are evaluated is based on those CDPs. So I want to
4 applaud that in the forefront.

5 And if the area of Fox Lake has been divided because of
6 that, then I, of course, go along with that. But I wanted to
7 bring to your attention that, as you enter into Fox Lake -
8 can you, Mike, can you expand that a little bit right at
9 Lasta Vista?

10 CHAIR: Yes, let's see where that is.

11 MS. THORNTON: Right at Fox Meadow Way, which is right
12 at, after Lasta Vista off of Lottsford Road, it's the
13 demarcation between District 4 and 6. It appears that you
14 come right into the community and just take out that portion
15 of that subdivision. So my neighbor a few doors down from me
16 will actually be in 6 and I will be in 4. And as I said, I'm
17 fine with being in whatever district it is that maintains
18 these lines, but thought it may be something of note for you.

19 CHAIR: Mike, are you pointing to that? I'm not.

20 MS. BROWN: He's still bringing up -

21 MS. THORNTON: Drill down and up.

22 MS. BROWN: Bringing up the road.

23 MR. HARRINGTON: Right. I see that.

24 MS. THORNTON: It seems like, after you come off of
25 Lasta Vista, you go right into the community and take half of

1 streets. And I think that that may be something you want to
2 look at. But for the interest of a comment that was made
3 before, I know my time is up, in my research about
4 redistricting with your rules, because the Republican party
5 did not get X number of votes, this is a fair representation
6 based on the rules.

7 And legal can confirm with me that this body that's
8 before us is a legal body and represents according to the
9 law. So, I certainly thank you for following all of the
10 regulations. If you look at your 1990 map and your 2000 map
11 and you look at this map, you'll see that this map conforms
12 more closely than ever to the guidelines that are set forth.
13 So I want to thank you for that. And I don't know what that
14 means, but is that two different CDPs when you look at the
15 Fox Lake community, which is right off of Fox Meadow?

16 See part of it, you see if you look at that Fox Lake,
17 you see that actually part of the street actually ends up in
18 4 and the other part ends up in 6. And I don't know if that
19 little part of that street is such - in fact, with Lottsford
20 Road being the line right there, that's a subdivision, and
21 it's splitting up the subdivision. And that subdivision is
22 Bowie and Mitchellville, and all that's up in that gray area
23 right there that's inside 4 is Mitchellville.

24 So, it's in the interest of continuity. It's splitting
25 Mitchellville. It's splitting that road and splitting a

1 natural demarcation that could be Lottsford Road. That's
2 just my point of information. I don't know if it's two CDPs,
3 so -

4 CHAIR: Mike, can you point to the place that Pat's
5 talking about? Is it that -

6 MR. HARRINGTON: Right there.

7 CHAIR: Oh, okay.

8 MR. HARRINGTON: See that line right there?

9 CHAIR: Okay.

10 MR. SHEEHAN: You can see just north of Lottsford Road
11 and is a subdivision -

12 CHAIR: So does that happen to be a cut where the CDP
13 is?

14 MR. SHEEHAN: That's correct.

15 CHAIR: I see.

16 MR. SHEEHAN: The CDP boundary is north of Lottsford
17 Road. I don't have an historical explanation.

18 CHAIR: I see it. But that's exactly the same kind of
19 change that Ms. Fletcher and Mr. Henderson were talking
20 about, is it not?

21 MS. THORNTON: That's right. Yes.

22 CHAIR: Okay, terrific. Pat, thank you so much.

23 MS. THORNTON: Thank you so much.

24 CHAIR: Thank you.

1 MS. BROWN: And just to make a comment generally, I
2 guess what I'm seeing in the comments where there have been
3 some division, some of the CDPs, the geography, was based on
4 very old data. And we've had new communities built since
5 then, although some communities have been existent and the
6 CDPs, you know, still consider the old geography. So, I
7 think, with respect to your community, it's because the
8 community came after the CDP was already established in it.

9 MS. THORNTON: What's funny is, if you look at that
10 block, when you look at Artic Fox Drive and you look at that
11 block, part of that community, Fox Ridge, Black Fox Drive,
12 all of that, that's a half a block being in one district and
13 half a block being in another.

14 CHAIR: Right.

15 MS. THORNTON: Which I think is a little bit even more
16 than the community.

17 CHAIR: Okay. So it looks like maybe, Dale, maybe we
18 need to ask the Census Bureau if we can, based on the way the
19 communities went up, maybe we can change some of the CDPs.

20 MS. THORNTON: As I say, if it's to keep the CDP, I'm
21 all for it. But I just thought it may be a note that you may
22 like to know.

23 CHAIR: Yeah, it is, Pat. Thanks.

24 MS. THORNTON: Thank you so much.

25 MR. HARRINGTON: Thank you.

1 CLERK: James Brooks.

2 MR. BROOKS: The last person that called me James was my
3 mother when she caught me stealing her cigarettes when I was
4 12 years old and then promptly beat me. I normally go by
5 Doc.

6 CHAIR: We'll call you Mr. Brooks.

7 MR. BROOKS: Is there a person, representative here from
8 the Census?

9 CHAIR: No.

10 MR. BROOKS: Okay. I'm from District 8, live in Camp
11 Springs. And generally support what you've done with doing
12 Camp Springs, along with Teena and Tanya and the rest of the
13 people that have been here today. My question deals with
14 something of history that goes back prior to this time, not
15 just in the last 10 to 20 years. But when you look at the
16 Census Designated Places, Camp Springs community, in the 1970
17 Census, went all the way to where is now Route 210, which did
18 not exist or was a different type of road back at that
19 timeframe.

20 Since that time, because of changes that have been made,
21 the Camp Springs community has eroded and, as far as the
22 Census is concerned, because the Census is based on where
23 people think they live. When they do their little survey
24 that they put things out, people say where do you live. And
25 since that time, the post office has rebuilt a super post

1 office in the Fort Washington area that covered about 15
2 different communities that now are incorporated in that area.

3 As construction goes on and new people move in, they all
4 think they live in Fort Washington when actually they live in
5 the area that was originally designated as Camp Springs. So
6 now our community has been allowed to erode because of the
7 way those things are played.

8 When I went to Maryland-National Capital Park and
9 Planning Commission to get some information on how they
10 determined where the boundaries were, I don't remember the
11 name of the young man at the time, but he seemed to be the
12 person who was in charge, and he brought out an ADC map. And
13 he said, well, the ADC Corporation says Camp Springs is right
14 here in this little designated area between Branch Avenue and
15 Brinkley Road, and nothing goes beyond that that specifies
16 where it is.

17 So I went to the ADC Corporation and said, where do you
18 get your information, and they said, from Maryland-National
19 Capital Park and Planning. And so I kind of felt like the
20 little lady that called the credit card customer service
21 place and continues to end up talking to Peggy.

22 The Postmaster, my friend here that was earlier, was
23 talking about his issues. I have been dealing with the
24 Postmasters and several of the post offices involved with how
25 that they get their information. They get their information

1 from Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning as to
2 determine what community you can live in. Because of the
3 fact that Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning will
4 not designate my particular area of community where I live as
5 Camp Springs, the post office doesn't recognize it as Camp
6 Springs. That information came out from the information that
7 comes from Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning and
8 the events that happened in the redistricting process.

9 The timeframe fits like that, and the things that you
10 make, the decisions you make here today are going to have
11 profound effects more than a hundred years from now. And the
12 effects of things that happened in the past from 1970, 1980,
13 1950, et cetera, also need to be considered when you're
14 making these changes as to watching how these things
15 developed, seeing where abuses occurred and possibly even
16 correcting them.

17 And that's what I'm asking you to do is not limit your
18 time that you're looking at information to the just recent
19 past but to the more historical past and watching where the
20 bad things happened back when things were different and
21 recognizing how this is going to affect things that are going
22 to happen over the next hundred years. Thank you.

23 CHAIR: Thank you.

24 MR. HARRINGTON: Thank you, sir.

25 MR. BROOKS: No questions?

1 MR. HARRINGTON: No, no questions. Good comments.

2 Thank you.

3 CLERK: Edward Burroughs.

4 MR. BURROUGHS: Good afternoon.

5 CHAIR: Good afternoon.

6 MS. BROWN: Good afternoon.

7 MR. BURROUGHS: I'm going to be very quick. I know
8 you've been here all morning.

9 MR. HARRINGTON: So have you, Mr. Burroughs.

10 MR. BURROUGHS: I really want to thank the Commission
11 for taking on this selfless task of giving up five months of
12 your life and not getting paid for this and not going on
13 summer vacation to do the work of the people. I'm convinced
14 that this is not the Commission's map, but this is really the
15 community's map.

16 Just down in 8th Councilmanic District, you came down.
17 You listened and you acted. And because of your work, Camp
18 Springs is now connected with District 8. We're unified, and
19 I'm so, so, so very appreciative. I know the Camp Springs
20 community is very appreciative.

21 Ten years ago, I was in elementary school and so, since
22 then, I've been hearing, you know, we want to be unified. We
23 want to be unified. We want to be unified, and you did that.
24 And I really want to just come down here, on behalf of Camp
25 Springs and on behalf of all of the voters, I just really

1 want to thank you for that because being together allows us
2 to have, it empowers the community to be able to act as one,
3 govern as one. I mean it's something that we want.

4 And then we were at first in Councilmanic District 9,
5 which, you know, was not okay with the community, and then
6 you put us in 8. And I really want to thank you for putting
7 us in 8 and keeping us in 8. That's definitely a strong
8 move, a better move. You listened from the community and you
9 acted. So I just want to, I really just came here to say
10 thank you for your selfless service, not going on summer
11 vacation, the sleepless nights, the several weeks in the
12 community. So thank you.

13 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

14 CHAIR: Thank you. But just so the Commission will not
15 be accused of this, Camp Springs said, we don't care 8 or 9.
16 We just want to be unified, so we really didn't choose. All
17 right. Thank you so much.

18 CLERK: And Venus Bethea.

19 MS. BETHEA: Hello, how are you all doing? My name is
20 Venus Bethea.

21 CHAIR: How are you?

22 MS. BETHEA: Hi, and I'm a resident of District 6. I
23 live in Upper Marlboro right off of Old Marlboro Pike in
24 Melwood Park. The problem I have with the District 6
25 redrawing is that it appears that more of the affluent areas

1 have been taken out of District 6 and divided among District
2 4 and District 9, and I think that's a problem.

3 In your map, District 9 has taken Villages of Marlboro,
4 Marlboro Meadows. Those are really good communities. One of
5 those communities actually has a golf course in it.

6 Actually, I'm not sure about Marlboro - well I know they're
7 having issues.

8 MS. BROWN: Yeah, they've got issues.

9 MS. BETHEA: But they have issues, but they're going to
10 work it out. But the point is that those are some really
11 good solid communities in District 6. Also, I noticed that
12 Woodmore has been taken out and Mitchellville taken out of
13 District 6 and put into District 4. It just it doesn't -
14 it's just interesting when trying to figure out why those
15 particular communities.

16 And listening to you all earlier, you said District 9
17 has grown in population, so I don't understand, if District 9
18 has grown in population, why do they need to dig into
19 District 6 and take out their population and now which has
20 lowered the population in District 6. And if you're going to
21 dig into District 6 from District 9, why not dig into the
22 lesser, the more economically deprived areas instead of the
23 good, hard-working communities that we have in Upper
24 Marlboro?

1 I'm not sure of who drew these lines. It just doesn't,
2 it doesn't make sense. Especially if you're looking at Old
3 Marlboro Pike extended or Old Marlboro Pike, it goes past my
4 neighborhood, Melwood Park, and then it continues right along
5 to Villages of Marlboro. It's really all, even though it's
6 not one community, it's - we share too many things in common.
7 We're on this one little road, but for District 9 to come in
8 and kind of scoop that little piece out, it just, it doesn't
9 make sense, instead of them taking maybe some of the areas in
10 Forestville or District Heights or some of those other
11 places.

12 I mean it doesn't matter. To us, District 6, there's
13 always been a District 6, so that's fine. But if you're
14 going to dig into a community or dig into a district, why dig
15 in those particular areas that you did dig into? So that's
16 basically what my question is. You know, this - you left
17 Kettering and Largo and some of those other places. I'm
18 done. But I'm just trying to figure out why more of the
19 affluent areas were taken out of District 6.

20 CHAIR: So you want us to take a look at the socio-
21 economic balance of the districts perhaps and the choices we
22 made?

23 MS. BETHEA: Most definitely.

24 CHAIR: Okay.

1 MS. BETHEA: It seems like, if you're going to make
2 those decisions, how come they were made? Were they made on
3 that because it looks like it if you look at the map. Okay,
4 thank you very much for your time.

5 CHAIR: Thank you so much.

6 MS. BROWN: I just want to comment on that. I will
7 assure you that no socio-economic make-up was made in terms
8 of redistricting just as no political make-up was made in
9 terms of redistricting by this Commission. We've worked very
10 hard to abide by the principles that we set out and Ms.
11 Zavakos and Ms. Canning did in their presentation. And, with
12 respect to District 9 -- because I live in District 9, I'm
13 very familiar with that area because Camp Springs was a part
14 of District 9 and they most readily identified and had a
15 community of interest with Morningside and Andrews Air Force
16 Base, which used to be called Camp Springs Army Base.

17 Those portions of District 9 were moved to District 8,
18 hence, the population law. But District 6 would have had to
19 lose population regardless, because, as we mentioned at the
20 beginning of the presentation that District 6 grew, was the
21 district that grew the most. So it was going to lose some
22 population, and I think we just based it on equal population
23 and did the population shifts.

24 We can always go, take a second look at which
25 communities were taken out. But again, we wanted to stick

1 with not necessarily by communities or subdivisions, but
2 making sure that we kept Census-Designate Places together. I
3 know you've heard that 50 times today, but that really is
4 what drove us to, in our proposed map.

5 CHAIR: It is, quite literally, almost a legal
6 constraint. I mean, otherwise, you just move people around
7 for capricious reasons.

8 I think we have come to the end of our testimony, and I
9 just want to close with this piece of housekeeping again.
10 What you've helped us do now is take what we thought was a
11 good starting point. We're going to take that back. We've
12 got to look at these comments to look at some very specific
13 things that, you know, just could not be seen on a map.

14 These are things that are about the lives of people and
15 they come from people. And that's what helped us get to this
16 good starting point. I think we can incorporate these and
17 still deliver to the Council and to the people an excellent
18 place for the Council to start. And I think, because of
19 citizen input, they really won't have that much to do,
20 because I think we will have delivered them a product that is
21 an outstanding starting point because of your participation
22 in the process.

23 Again, I'd like to thank the Council staff for all of
24 their support. I'd like to thank my two Commissioners. I'd
25 like to thank all of you. But, you know, a few of you,

1 before you go, I'd just like to ask Commissioner Harrington
2 to introduce you to a young man who's from this community,
3 who's worked with us and who represents ten years from now
4 knowledge about this process that's been developed inside of
5 our community as a result of an idea Commissioner Harrington
6 brought to us at our very first meeting.

7 MR. HARRINGTON: Well, thank you very much. And there
8 was one of the people who testified made notion of setting
9 some seeds for sustainability. And so we like to home grow
10 some of our talent. And we have a young man here who
11 graduated from Prince George's County public schools, went on
12 to then go onto college, and then has also graduated from
13 Columbia Law School and has written what I think is an
14 outstanding scholarly article on the impacts of the Fair
15 Housing Act contributing to the housing disparity.

16 He is right here in Prince George's County, and I will
17 get on my soap box that far too often we look outside of our
18 County for help. I think it's about time that we look at the
19 young people for some help. And so thanks to the Commission
20 and thanks to the staff in doing some further digging. We
21 found somebody who has incredible background.

22 And we hope, ten years from now - but I too could say
23 that I was in elementary school ten years ago, Mr. Burroughs
24 - we hope that he will be sitting as one of our advisors in
25 this most complex process. I want to introduce to you Brian

